

China vice mayor commits suicide

BEIJING (AP) — The vice mayor of a Chinese city committed suicide Monday, a day after being accused of embezzling millions of dollars.

Yeltsin pledges support for Amman summit.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Monday received at the Royal Court the Russian deputy foreign minister for the Middle East and Africa affairs. The Russian envoy handed Prince Hassan a letter from Russian President Boris Yeltsin to His Majesty King Hussein, thanking him for the invitation to attend the international economic development conference which will be hosted in Amman. Mr. Yeltsin said Russia was paying special attention to the issue of economic development in the Middle East. He said Russia will contribute its share to the Amman conference. "We are highly appreciative of cooperation with Jordan for the sake of a comprehensive settlement between the Arabs and Israelis... and I take this chance to stress to you that we in Moscow are looking forward to developing and expanding the friendly relations between our two countries and peoples," Mr. Yeltsin said in his letter.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily

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Scour returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saad Hayel Scour returned home on Monday after heading the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Madrid March 26-April 2 and the meetings of the Arab Parliamentary Union held in Rabat, Morocco April 3-5. Mr. Scour told Petra Jordan's participation in the IPU meetings was distinguished at more than one level since members of the Kingdom's delegation participated in the works of several committees.

Israeli team visits wildlife reserve

AMMAN (Petra) — An Israeli delegation on Monday visited the Zuhra wildlife reserve in the Deir Abec Saeed area. The delegation, representing natural reserves in southern Israel, were briefed on wildlife reserves in Jordan and the work of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.

Bridge closures announced

AMMAN (Petra) — The King Hussein Bridge will be closed at 10.30 on Friday, April 14, the Public Security Department (PSD) said. It said the bridge will also be closed before travellers at 12 noon on Thursday April 20 and closed all day Friday April 21, 1995.

Hammad meets Iraqi governor

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Salameh Hammad on Monday received the governor of the Iraqi province of Anbar, Awwad Al Bandar. Mr. Bandar arrived to Jordan earlier Monday on the head of an official delegation to hold talks with Mafraq Governor Qafan Majali on facilitating crossing procedures on the Jordanian-Iraqi borders. The two sides started their meetings later Monday.

Competition to help disabled

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Firas Ben Ra'd on Monday announced that "a Hashemite competition for health and integration" aimed at spreading scientific information on disabilities and the disabled will be launched soon. At a press conference held at the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), Prince Firas, who is chairman of the competition's higher committee, said the competition aims to provide the needed financing for establishing 25 special education classes for slow learners at government schools and purchasing equipment needed for the disabled. He said the costs of the two projects were estimated at JD100,000.

Jews worldwide reach 13 million

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Jewish population worldwide is around 13 million, of whom 10 million live in the United States and Israel, an Israeli population expert said Monday. Sergio Della Pergola, head of the Institute of Contemporary Judaism at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, said the main Jewish communities were in the following countries: the United States — 5.6 million, Israel — 4.4 million, France 530,000, Russia — 410,000, Canada — 350,000 and Britain — 300,000. "Taking second of ethnic, religious and cultural criteria, the Jewish population worldwide now totals 13 million," he told AFP. He said some 750,000 Jews also lived in former Soviet republics outside Russia and 52,000 lived in Germany. Since September 1989 more than 600,000 Jews have immigrated to Israel from the former Soviet Union.

3-day Amman economic summit set for Oct. 29

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The steering committee in charge of organising an economic summit in Amman met here on Monday with Arab and international participation and formally decided that the conference would be held for three days starting Oct. 29.

The summit will be a follow-up to a similar conference held in Casablanca, Morocco, late last year and many of the projects and proposals presented at that meeting are expected to be finalised during the Amman meeting.

Also expected to be announced at the meeting is the creation of a Middle East development bank despite differing approaches to its capital structure and funding.

Delegates from the U.S., Russia, the European Union, Japan, Israel, Egypt, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Tunisia, and Morocco as well as Gulf states attended Monday's steering committee meeting.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, met with the heads of the delegation to the meeting and reviewed with them preparations for the economic summit.

The meeting was attended by His Majesty King Hussein's advisor Yanal Hikmat, Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb, chairman of the steering committee, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and the Crown Prince's advisors.

Dennis Ross, the U.S. delegate, told a press conference after attending the meeting that Oct. 29 was set as the opening date for the three-day summit, which will discuss short and long-term economic projects in the region.

Political leaderships will be represented in the final day of the gathering, he said.

"I feel very good about the outcome of the meeting not only because of the spirit in which it was conducted but also because we were quite focused" in discussing mechanisms for the development of the projects which will be addressed by the summit, Mr. Ross said.

He said participants agreed that the summit should have clear-cut themes, adding that delegates also agreed on mechanisms to enhance project identifications by using progress in this regard made by the multilateral talks of the peace process.

Mr. Ross said the U.S. understands the importance of realising economic dividend of the peace process, adding that there is a "political dimension to the peace process" which is inescapable and necessary and an economic dimension which is also inescapable and necessary.

"Those who made peace need to see that there are benefits for having done so," said Mr. Ross, who added that the projects being discussed within the framework of the Amman summit are both long-term and short-term projects.

Israel's Beilin said further preparatory meetings will be held in New York and an unspecified European country.

Mr. Beilin said a regional bank for the economic development of the Middle East and North Africa is expected to be announced at the conference.

In arrival comments, Mr. Ross said: "The main objective here is to lay out a very good work plan in advance of the Amman summit."

"The summit is an extremely important event... it is another milestone in terms of Middle East peace making and in terms of the development of the Middle East."

"Peace must be accompanied by cooperation and economic development as this is the way we are going to demonstrate to the people that peace pays... it is very important that people see the fruits, the material benefits of peace," Mr. Ross said.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Monday meets with heads of delegation to a preparatory meeting for an economic summit to be held in Amman in October (photo by Youssef 'Allan)'

U.S. and Jordan to discuss Kingdom's security need — Ross

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the United States will soon discuss means through which Washington could meet the Kingdom's security needs, a senior American official said Monday.

"We want to try to help meet Jordan's legitimate security needs," said Dennis Ross, the Clinton administration's coordinator of the Middle East peace process.

Describing as positive from the American standpoint as well as from the Kingdom's perspective the outcome of His Majesty King Hussein's talks in Washington last week, Mr. Ross told a press conference that the Jordanian-U.S. relationship was "a very strong one."

"It's relationship that reflects not only a sense of partnership but a sense of joint commitment to helping shape (a Middle East) that is at peace and stable," said Mr. Ross, who arrived here from Israel on a Middle East mission aimed at lifting the logjam in Syrian-Israeli peace negotiations.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said Sunday the King's visit to Washington was an excellent opportunity to convey Jordan's viewpoints on the Middle East peace process and the Kingdom's commitment to finding a comprehensive peace as well as its role in the region to the American legislature.

During the King's talks, Jordan's security and economic needs were discussed and American administration officials as well as congressmen displayed a "serious understanding" of the issue, Mr. Kabariti told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Ross, in his mission to revitalise the Syrian-Israeli track of peace talks, visited Damascus on Sunday for talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and also met with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Gaza and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Ismailia.

Mr. Ross, who was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in a meeting where he briefed the Regent on the outcome of his mission, said Washington was determined to see progress made on the Syrian-Israeli front.

"We want to see progress made as quickly as possible," he said, adding that there was no question the "Syrians and the Israelis are genuine in wanting to move ahead."

"There is no question that discussions at this stage are very serious... but there are real issues being addressed and as we deal increasingly with the area of security arrangements, there is still work to be done," said Mr. Ross.

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PLO launches broad crackdown on militants

GAZA (Agencies) — Palestinian police rounded up 150 militants on Monday after suicide bombings killed seven Israelis in Gaza.

The death toll rose after a soldier died from wounds sustained in one of the attacks. All seven were soldiers, including two women. First reports said seven were killed, but the toll was late Sunday revised to six.

Israel barred Palestinians from a 10-kilometre stretch of Gaza's main north-south road between Kfar Darom and Netzarim Jewish settlements, site of Sunday's attacks by the militant Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups, Israeli security sources said.

It also closed two east-west roads linking the settlements with Israel, they said.

The measure was likely to further strain the Palestinian self-rule area, already suffering from economic hardship because of a war against Palestinian workers entering Israel.

Palestinian police detained about 150 suspected sympathisers of the two militant groups, Palestinian officials said.

In Khan Younis in the south of the Gaza Strip, police exchanged fire with Hamas gunmen before arresting two of them. Palestinian sources said. There were no reports of injuries.

A Gaza military court on Monday sentenced Islamic Jihad's Samir Al Jedi to 15 years in jail for training children as young as 10 to be guerrillas, Palestinian officials said.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat set up the three-man tribunal in response to calls by Israel and the United States for action against militants after previous attacks. It was the first time it had jailed somebody. A PLO official said that

Illinois business delegation holds talks in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation of Arab and Jewish business leaders from Illinois met Monday with Jordanian trade officials and discussed business opportunities.

The 20-member delegation, headed by Governor Jim Edgar, arrived earlier in the day from Israel on a trip that will include a stop in Egypt.

"We are here to promote trade and commerce between the state of Illinois and Mideast countries especially (now) that there is a different climate in the region now," Jerry Cohen of the accounting firm Deloitte and Touche told the Associated Press.

"We came here to learn... what business opportunities are available."

Mr. Cohen said his group met with Trade Minister Ali Abul Ragheb and was scheduled to meet with private sector Jordanian businessmen later in the day.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Abul Ragheb briefed the team on the investment climate in Jordan.

Mr. Abul Ragheb and Mr. Edgar reviewed Jordanian-American economic relations.

Mr. Abul Ragheb told Mr. Edgar that peace in the Middle East will reflect positively on the region in general, and Jordan in particular, because of Jordan's good economic and trade relations with Arab countries and its strategic location, Petra said.

The minister briefed the visiting official on preparations for the Amman international economic conference which will be held in October.

The meetings were attended by Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Smaidi and the delegation accompanying Mr. Edgar.

Iraq demands Turkish pullout

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The Iraqi parliament Monday demanded that Turkey withdraw its forces from the north "immediately," the Iraqi News Agency reported.

Baghdad's anger with Turkey for sending 35,000 troops into its northern region to hunt down Kurdish separatists has swelled over Ankara's moves to make a deal with Iraqi Kurdish rebels to curb its foes.

The National Assembly issued a statement saying "the Turkish invasion into Iraqi territory... a blatant violation of good neighbourly relations and has created grave damages to Iraq's security and sovereignty."

The news agency said the assembly "demanded that the Turkish government withdraw its military forces from Iraqi territories immediately and stop dealing with Iraqi Kurdish groups."

The state-run Baghdad Observer daily said that Turkey should resume direct contacts with Baghdad on the crisis in northern Iraq rather than deal with Iraq's two main Kurdish rebel groups.

It said that Ankara was trying to "patch up differences" with the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) with the aim of creating a security zone to prevent attacks by the Turkish separatist movement, the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

Ankara sent envoys to northern Iraq last week to talk to KDP leader Massoud Barzani and PUK chief Jalal Talabani to persuade them to stop fighting each other because PKK fighters in northern Iraq were exploiting the chaos in the Iraqi Kurds' self-rule zone.

Turkey sent its forces, backed by armour and warplanes, across the border March 20 to crush the estimated 2,500 to 3,000 PKK guerrillas operating in northern Iraq.

The leader of PKK said meanwhile his fighters were ready for a long guerrilla war but also remain open to a peace settlement.

Abdullah Ocalan also said he will soon announce the formation of a Kurdish parliament-in-exile as a move towards creating federal cantons for the 20 million Kurds in the Middle East.

Mr. Ocalan, known among his 10,000 hard-core rebels in Apo, said his men killed 800 Turkish soldiers for minimal losses to the three week-old Turkish incursion into northern Iraq.

Turkey contends 399 guerrillas have been killed for the loss of only 40 soldiers slain.

Mr. Ocalan spoke in an interview with the independent Beirut daily Al Nahar that was published Monday. The newspaper said questions were transmitted to Mr. Ocalan at his secret headquarters through aides, with his answers received two days later.

"By waging this ill-starred invasion," Mr. Ocalan was quoted as saying, "Turkey has plunged itself into... a quagmire from which it is very difficult to get out."

He claimed rebel losses were less than 25 killed.

"We're taken the steam out of the Turkish army's drive," Mr. Ocalan said. "Our forces are now fanned out in vast mountainous areas with enough logistics and freedom of movement to fight a guerrilla war for years."

However, Mr. Ocalan predicted the Ankara government would eventually accept a negotiated settlement once it realises it cannot crush the PKK militarily.

"With the end of the latest military campaign we could be able to discuss ways to find a political solution... we have

(Continued on page 7)

Muasher presents credentials

TEL AVIV (AP) — Jordan's first ambassador to Israel presented his credentials to President Ezer Weizman Monday.

Marwan Muasher, 38, a former spokesman for Jordan's peace negotiating team, said: "We feel that the average man in the street, and I am talking here particularly in Jordan, needs to feel the benefits of peace and needs to feel that the quality of life has indeed improved."

"All people (need) to start interacting with each other and peace has to be truly translated from one between governments to one between peoples."

Mr. Weizman said: "It is a very good feeling because we need to remember that we are part of the Middle East. I am very very happy that the neighbours from the other side of the (Jordan) river are with us here today. 'I am sure that he is not the last one.'"

Dr. Muasher pledged to "do everything possible to boost the process of normalising ties between our two countries."

He also condemned two bombings outside Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip on Sunday which left seven soldiers dead and more than 50 people wounded.

"Such attacks harm the peace process and they have to be stopped at all costs," he said at the ceremony, which was also attended by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

In Amman, Israel's Ambassador Shimon Shamir presented his credentials to Crown Prince Hassan (see page 12).

"Prince Hassan expressed the hope of seeing overall peace in the region and regret for the death of innocent victims," he said.

Israel rules out return to pre-1967 lines on Golan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has ruled out withdrawing to the frontlines that prevailed before the June 1967 war on the Golan Heights, his ministry said Monday.

"Nobody in Israel is ready to accept a return to the frontiers of June 4, 1967," Mr. Peres told the Israeli cabinet on Sunday after discussions about banding back part of the territory seized from Syria in the war.

However, he said it was important to reach an agreement with Syria before starting negotiations with the Palestinians on the "final status" of Palestinian territories, due by May 1996 at the latest.

"We must avoid allowing Syria to put pressure on Israel over the status of Jerusalem," he said. "Syrian pressure on this subject would make negotiations with the Palestinians even more difficult."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, reacting to the latest peace shuttle by U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross, said Syria was making impossible demands which Israel could not accept.

He said nothing positive had come out of negotiations since U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher toured the Middle East at the start of March, Israeli newspapers reported.

"President Hafez Al Assad wants to extract more than Egypt obtained to justify the fact that he has waited 18 years to negotiate with Israel," said Mr. Rabin.

Direct talks between Israel and Syria started again three weeks ago at ambassadorial level in Washington.

The United States wants the negotiations to move on quickly to discussions between the two countries' military chiefs-of-staff. A first meeting between the military chiefs in Washington on Dec. 22 ended in failure.

Israel has said the main obstacle to advancing the negotiations is the Syrian demand for each side to preserve equal security zones on each side of any future frontier.

Syria said Monday it is in no hurry to make peace with Israel if that peace is not "just and comprehensive."

"If the option is between a fragile, partial deal and a just and comprehensive peace, Syria will choose the just and comprehensive peace no matter how long it will take," state-run Radio Damascus said in a commentary.

It said Syria will not be intimidated by the "weapon of time" used by Israel to achieve a partial deal.

Israel's chief negotiator with Syria, Itamar Rabinovich, warned Sunday that time was running out and blamed Syrian inflexibility for the lack of progress in the peace talks.

"Syria is not in a hurry," the radio said. "It will not be involved in anything that will not serve its interests, or respond to its principles in accordance with the resolutions of the international community."

Tishreen did not specify Syria's demands but said they reflected Israel's rejection of the principle of equality and the balance of forces.

"Israel is putting impossible demands for security arrangements. It rejects the principle of equality and insists on disturbing the balance of forces. They interfere in the core of Syria's sovereignty," Tishreen said.

War-scarred Lebanese see better times ahead

BEIRUT (AFP) — In the tiny medieval church of Saint Gregory in Amnion, northern Lebanon, the faithful have been coming to worship a statue of the Virgin Mary that they say has been crying.

Father Elias Nassar was conducting a service when a member of his congregation, Mountaba Dahar, 60, collapsed after spotting "tears" of olive oil coming from the statue. The priest proclaimed it a miracle.

Pilgrims, the sick and lame, have been flocking to the church to anoint themselves with the "miracle oil" for the past week.

Lebanon's Christians, isolated in a predominantly Muslim part of the world, are particularly receptive to such miracles, seeing them as signs that "believers in Jesus have not been abandoned", according to Farid Azoury, a psychologist.

They have had few other comforts to cling to in the last few years after the pain and suffering of the country's civil war, which started 20 years ago and left them profoundly weakened.

Many, however, like Nasrallah Steir, a Maronite patriarch, are convinced better times lie ahead.

"We have been here for 1,500 years, a century before Islam. We are not going to give up our position now," he said.

His stubborn optimism is echoed by nearly all Christians who have remained in the country despite the predicament they find themselves in today.

Forced into an alliance with Israel in 1982 to try to protect their former hegemony in Lebanon, the Christian community has seen some dark days in the last few years.

Many have left the country, they have run out of charismatic leaders, and they have lost much of their influence, after the 15-year war which started on April 13, 1975 and ended in 1990 following bitter fighting among rival Christian groups.

Faced with a government led by a Sunni Muslim, Rafik Hariri, and Syria's powerful role in their country, they are struggling to resist being marginalised. Many of their leaders refuse to join the government.

Syria demands land to shore of Kinneret

The Jerusalem Post

SYRIA is not only unwavering in its demand that Golan withdrawal extend beyond the 1949 armistice line, but it wants territory up to the border of June 4, 1967. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the cabinet Sunday.

According to one source, Rabin gave ministers his biggest hint yet that he is considering full Golan withdrawal. When asked by a minister about terms for dealing with Syria, Rabin responded rhetorically: Do you believe it is possible to begin talking with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad according to principles that are worse than what (late Egyptian President Anwar) Sadat received?

This could not be confirmed by another source. But officials in the prime minister's office denied that by mentioning the lines of June 4, 1967, Rabin was conceding that Israel could withdraw to the 1949 lines. Rabin's remarks about Syria were raised in the context of the annual IDF military intelligence report presented to the cabinet.

Between 1949 and 1967, Syria extended its control beyond the 1949 lines, amid disputes between the two countries. By withdrawing to the June 4, 1967, lines, the Syrian-Israeli border would be just metres away from Lake Kinneret.

One of the problems in the negotiations is the current impasse over the principles underlying Golan security arrangements. By all indications, U.S. special Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross has so far not succeeded in breaking the deadlock.

Ross held two separate meetings with Rabin, both before and after his talks with Assad in the Mediterranean city of Latakia. On Sunday, Ross held talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Ismailiya.

Meanwhile, Syria condemned Israel Sunday for launching Ofek-3, saying it is a spy satellite which will pass over its territory. It also said peace talks would suffer as a result.

Algerian group presents 3-step plan to end crisis

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian President Liamine Zerroual on Monday met members of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria (MDA), officials said, as part of his plans to hold elections in the war-torn country.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Resistance Movement (MRI-Al Nahda) presented Mr. Zerroual with a three-step plan to end the present crisis, based chiefly on an Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) truce.

The MDA, led by former President Ahmad Ben Bella, is the fourth signatory of the Rome platform to be received by the president — after the National Liberation Front (FLN), the Socialist Forces Front (FSS) and the Islamic Renaissance Movement.

The four have reaffirmed their commitment to the so-called "national contract" — a platform for talks with the government drawn up at a meeting in Rome in January and rejected by the regime.

A total of eight legal opposition parties in January signed the "national contract."

In an advertising supplement in the Arabic daily Al Khabar Monday, Al Nahda called for the liberation of all political prisoners and for the FIS to call a cessation of attacks on civilians, foreigners and public buildings before any election could be held.

The Al Nahda project — which draws on the national contract — envisages building a democratic and sovereign Algerian state based on Islamic principles.

It calls for respect of the constitution, change of government through universal suffrage, human rights, the primacy of law, and for the rejection of violence as a means of gaining or holding on to power.

Al Nahda sets out three stages, calling for commitments from the government and from the FIS.

Firstly, the movement calls for the liberation of political prisoners and for FIS leaders to bring about the normalisation of politics and the press and for an immediate end to all excesses, including torture and assassination of civilians.

Secondly, the plan foresees the judicial rehabilitation of the FIS as well as calling for an end to the state of emergency and emergency measures, and for a general truce by the FIS.

Lastly, the plan envisages a "national meeting" between the opposition and the government. The FIS, which would oversee the transition period, and would establish "free, fair multi-party elections, beginning with the presidential elections in 1995."

In Cairo, Algeria's foreign minister said the FIS must renounce violence before it can participate in a national dialogue leading up to elections.

From April 1994 to March 1995, 198 militants and 116 policemen were killed, compared with 57 militants and 100 policemen killed over the same period in 1993-1994, according to an AFP toll based on police sources.

To successfully infiltrate the agent has to "pass himself off as a fugitive from a group wiped out in another area or as a sympathiser" of the militant umbrella-group Gamaa Al Islamiyah, the general said.

"To win the militants' confidence he provides them for several months with arms or information about prospective targets," said the general, who oversaw the infiltration operations.

"In the second stage, he recruits a member of the cell by promising him immunity if he cooperates. Generally the target accepts because he knows the group has been uncovered," he added.

Police have cited some successes of the operation, but Gen. Fishawi said the agents

had foiled "dozens of attempts by militants which were not made public so we could break up other rings."

It was a turnover who led police to 16 militants convicted of stabbing the winner of the Nobel Prize for literature, Naguib Mahfouz, on Oct. 14 in Cairo.

The attackers were arrested within hours. Two of them were condemned to death by military courts and hanged.

Information from another collaborator prevented a suicide attack against the state security headquarters on Sept. 13 during the U.N. Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, a high-ranking police officer said.

The infiltrators' latest success came with the arrest last week of 21 extremists in the slums of Cairo, the source said.

"Usually the arrests take place before the group carries out an attack and then our (agent's) mission is finished. To prevent reprisals against

him we arrest him or issue a press release saying he was killed by police," the general said.

"Until now, our losses have been minimal but some missions were aborted when we thought our agents had been unmasked," he said.

"Planting an agent is easier in Cairo or abroad than in southern Egypt, where society is more close-knit," he added. "There, we prefer to recruit militants."

Battles between police and militants, which have left 728 people dead since March 1992, have centred on the southern province of Minya since last summer.

The capital has not seen any major attacks since April 1994 when police shot dead the Gamaa's military leader Talaat Yassin Hammam.

"Our successes have been so great that several European countries have asked for our help in breaking up terrorist groups on their soil," Gen. Fishawi said, without giving further details.

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Shuaibi lauds ties with Jordan, works on accord

AMMAN (Petra) — Azmi Shuaibi, the minister of sports and youth in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), on Monday lauded the Jordanian-Palestinian relations, describing them as distinguished, especially in sports and youth-related fields.

Mr. Shuaibi, who arrived here Sunday on a four-day visit to Jordan, said his visit comes in response to an official invitation from the Ministry of Youth to hold talks aiming to enhance cooperation between the two sides.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, he said that during his stay he will sign a cooperation protocol in these fields. Such an agreement will be the first PNA signs with an Arab country and this is natural in view of the special Jordanian-Palestinian relations, he said.

He said the Palestinian Ministry of Youth will seek to enhance its ties with its Jordanian counterpart and benefit from its experience, qualified personnel, technical and administrative capabilities and legislation in the Kingdom.

He said his ministry also aims to exchange sports teams and youth delegations with Jordan.

Mr. Shuaibi said cooperation between the two sides existed even before signing the protocol since most of the training courses organised by the Palestinian ministry were

supervised by Jordanian experts and specialists.

Mr. Shuaibi said Jordanian sports teams will be invited to play with Palestinian teams.

Al Faisali club of Jordan is expected to visit Gaza at an invitation by a Palestinian club, he said, pointing to the success of Al Wihdat team's successful visit to the West Bank and Gaza.

The Palestinian official said his ministry also aims to enhance cooperation with other Arab countries, noting that similar protocols will soon be signed with Egypt and Qatar.

He told Petra that his ministry currently aims to restore their sports facilities and establish new ones.

He said the Palestinian Olympic Committee will be recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) during the Atlanta Olympic Games next year.

All Arab countries have supported the Palestinian request to join the IOC, he said.

On Monday evening, Mr. Shuaibi led the Palestinian side in its three-day talks with a Jordanian delegation, which was headed by Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat, who is also president of the Jordan Olympic Committee.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Shuaibi visited Al Hussein Youth City and was briefed on the services it offers to the public.

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supervised by Jordanian experts and specialists.

Mr. Shuaibi said Jordanian sports teams will be invited to play with Palestinian teams.

Al Faisali club of Jordan is expected to visit Gaza at an invitation by a Palestinian club, he said, pointing to the success of Al Wihdat team's successful visit to the West Bank and Gaza.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ethiopia asks Sudan to hand over hijackers

KHARTOUM (R) — Ethiopia has officially asked Khartoum to hand over five Ethiopians who hijacked a plane to Sudan last month, a newspaper reported on Monday. Akhtar Al Youm newspaper quoted Justice Minister Abdul Aziz Shido as saying Sudan would consider the Ethiopian request on the basis of a 1962 bilateral agreement on exchanging criminals after completing its own investigation into the hijacking. Last month five armed men hijacked an Ethiopian Boeing 737 with 92 passengers and crew members on an internal flight, initially demanding to go to Sweden. But the pilot landed in Al Obeid in northwestern Sudan where the hijackers surrendered to police after negotiating with Sudanese authorities. No one was hurt.

Banana buys off lovelorn King Kong

KUWAIT (R) — An ape enraged when a domestic servant fought off his sexual advances was pacified by being thrown a banana to eat, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported on Monday. The daily Al Watan said a Filipino maid doing her laundry on the roof of her employers' house was attacked from behind and initially thought her assailant was a man. The screaming woman fought free of the animal, which had escaped from a nearby house three days before, and locked him on the roof. Rescuers called by neighbours could not pacify the Ethiopian ape until one of them thought of a banana. "As soon as the ape got the banana his desire vanished," said the paper.

Kuwaiti premier begins Thai visit

BANGKOK (R) — Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, arrived in Thailand on Monday for a two-day visit likely to focus on trade, a Thai government official said. Sheikh Saad flew into Bangkok's military airport from China and set off for government house for a welcoming ceremony and talks with Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai. The Kuwaiti ministers for trade and industry, oil and planning are travelling with the prime minister. An official in Mr. Chuan's office said earlier on Monday talks were likely to focus more on boosting trade than on investment. Thailand had earlier asked Kuwait to consider joint investment in a refinery in an ambitious southern seaboard development project.

Iraq doubles exit permit fee

AMMAN (AP) — Iraq has doubled an exit fee its citizens have to pay to leave the country in an apparent attempt to curb the exodus of Iraqis trying to flee poverty and hunger caused by an international embargo. Baghdad residents, reached by telephone from Amman, said Sunday that the fee was hiked to 200,000 dinars, or \$167, up from 100,000 dinars in February. Officially, the dollar is valued at \$3.2 to the dinar, but Iraq's economic woes since the Gulf crisis have dramatically undermined the value of the national currency, which now stands at about 1,200 dinars to the U.S. dollar on the black market. The new fees are beyond the means of many people in Iraq, where the average monthly income is 3,000 dinars, or \$2.5. The Baghdad residents, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal, said the new fees were never officially announced. But government banks, where the money is paid in exchange for a compulsory exit permit, were asking this weekend for 200,000 dinars per person, citing new government instructions.

Love letters land 80-year-old in court

TEHRAN (AFP) — An 80-year-old Iranian man was arrested in Tehran after his landlady complained about the love letters he sent to her each day, the Kayhan newspaper said. "Every day he knocked at the door of my apartment to give me a letter expressing his feelings," said the 60-year-old woman in her complaint. The unnamed man appeared before a judge who ruled he should be temporarily released pending an investigation, the newspaper said.

Lebanon cleric bans breaking traffic rules

BEIRUT (R) — The spiritual leader of Lebanon's Muslim fundamentalists issued a religious edict banning motorists from breaking traffic regulations, Beirut newspapers said on Monday. "All people are forbidden from breaking traffic regulations which must be adhered to except in very hard cases," Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah said. "It is not permissible that any person use public utilities, including streets, in a way that endangers peoples' lives," Sheikh Fadlallah was quoted by the papers as saying in the edict. Police figures show an average of one person was killed and nine were wounded daily in traffic accidents in Lebanon in January and February.

Somali warlord condemns kidnapping

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Leading Somali faction leader General Mohammad Farah Aided on Monday strongly condemned Sunday's kidnapping of an Ethiopian diplomat by gunmen in south Mogadishu and pledged the perpetrators would be punished. Addressing newsmen here, General Aided characterised the abduction on Sunday of the Ethiopian charge d'affaires in Mogadishu, Yemani Abdi, as "a terrorist act carried out by gangs who violated rights and the dignity" of the diplomat. "Those bandits, whom we are still chasing have spoiled the reputation of the Somali people because they don't know what diplomatic immunity is. This sort of action will not be tolerated and its perpetrators will be punished," shouted Gen. Aided, who is chairman of the main Somali National Alliance (SNA) faction that controls most of the Somali capital's southern sector. Gen. Aided said he had appointed top militia commander, Mohammad Siganah to take necessary action, using all means in his power "for the safe, unconditional and immediate release of Yemani Abdi."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Captain Planet
14:30 Wilness Video
15:30 Road to Avonlea
16:30 Tarzan
17:00 Le Prince Et La Sirène
17:30 Pyramide
18:00 Tour Du Monde Tour Du Ciel
19:00 News in French
19:15 Paul Pas Rever
19:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
20:30 Desmond's
21:00 Jack and Ripper
22:00 News in English
22:30 Sealorph
00:00 Lonesome Dove

PRAYER TIMES

05:46 Fajr
07:00 Sunrise
13:37 Dhuhr
17:12 Asr
20:05 Maghreb
21:26 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switfield, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 71331

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 71331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 71331

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151

Amman International Church Tel. 625256

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 634328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 641195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811285

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to drop further with a chance of showers in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom. Skies will be partly cloudy and winds westerly active. In Amman, moderate weather conditions will prevail with skies partly cloudy, winds northwesterly moderate, and seas calm.

Min/Max temp. 6/14

Aqaba 14/25

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh 827195

Dr. Bassam Karadshahi 759200

Dr. Salman Al Daboubi 778999

Dr. Bahjat Bader 849362

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 637055

Al Saiten pharmacy 636730

Yaacob pharmacy 649445

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Natrouth pharmacy 626762

Najib pharmacy 647632

IRBID:

Dr. Akram Momani 248795

Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Hussein Bashairi (—)

Deserts

6/18

Jordan Valley 11/22

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 19, Aqaba 28, Humidity

readings: Amman 48 per cent,

Aqaba 31 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Water and Sewerage 661176

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio

S. TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1995
IN BRIEF
to hand over hijacked
loveorn King Kan
begins Thai visit
t permit fee
150-year-old in co
s breaking traffic
ndemns kidnapper
HIJAZ RAILWAY
MARKET PRICE

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1995 3

Political coalition supports Libya's intention to break U.N. air embargo

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A coalition of 11 Jordanian political groups on Monday supported Libya's avowed move to break the air embargo imposed against it by the U.N. by flying Libyan pilgrims for this year's Hajj direct from Libya.

A statement issued by the coalition also supported Libya's call for a compromise in its dispute with the West over the 1989 bombing and demanded an immediate end to the international sanctions imposed against Iraq.

The sanctions against Libya were imposed after Tripoli refused to hand over two Libyans who, the U.S. and Britain say, are implicated in the Dec. 22, 1989 bombing of an American airliner over the Scottish town of Lockerbie.

Libya has offered to surrender the two Libyans for trial in the International Court of Justice in the Hague, but Washington and London rejected the offer.

The sanctions include an air embargo, which has grounded all Libyan aircraft and prevented flights in and out of the country.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said last week that

his country intended to break the air embargo by flying Libyan pilgrims to this year's Hajj in Saudi Arabia direct by Libyan territory and appealed to neighbouring Arab countries for help.

The statement issued by the Jordanian coalition of the mainstream Islamic movement and leftist and pan-Arab political parties assailed the U.S. policy towards Libya and Iraq.

"The insistence of the U.S. and some of its Western allies that Libya surrender the two Libyans against Libyan pride and on maintaining the sanctions against Iraq and Libya is part of the American policy of blackmail and terror against any country that goes beyond American control under the umbrella of the new world order, which is an order of imposing policy," said the Arabic-language statement.

"We, as national parties, condemn the imposition of sanctions on Libya and demand that the sanctions be lifted immediately," it said. "We also call for listening to the suggestions that will lead to a just solution to the Lockerbie case," it added.

"We also declare our full support for the Libyan decision to unilaterally lift the embargo by flying Libyan pil-

grims," said the statement, urging "all neighbouring countries (to Libya) to facilitate the movement of the pilgrims."

The coalition said it "appreciated the democratic voices from the West which are calling for conducting a new investigation" into the Lockerbie case. That appeared to be an indirect reference in reports that secret intelligence data indicate that Iran was behind the Lockerbie bombing.

The statement came two weeks after the United States said it was raising to \$4 million a reward offered to anyone whose help leads to the capture of the two Libyans and that the U.S. was seeking a total ban on Libyan oil exports until Tripoli surrendered the two.

On Iraq, the Jordanian coalition statement said: "We condemn the continued sanctions on Iraq for more than four years after the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and despite Iraq's compliance with all United Nations resolutions."

"We call on all Arab and Muslim countries to take a strong stand, and reject the policy of sanctions while our resources are being used to make money for capitalists."

Police investigate fire that killed 2 youths

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police are investigating a fire that occurred early Monday morning killing two children in Jabal Al Nasser, Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports said.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times Monday that the father of the two children is suspected of setting the blaze and is "currently in police custody." Police would not confirm or deny this statement.

"The father, who was married twice and had recently divorced one of his wives could turn out to be the prime suspect in the case," the source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said.

The children, Mariam M. (9), and Kayed M. (7), were found locked in their room with second degree burns, the reports said. The cause of death was reported as carbon monoxide poisoning.

A next door neighbour told the Jordan Times Monday that at about 6:16 a.m. he heard the children's father, Mahmoud Faris, yelling that his house was on fire. He said people from the neighbourhood rushed to Mr. Faris' house and tried to put out the blaze.

"We went to his house and heard the children screaming. After several attempts we broke down the door, but unfortunately it was too late — the children were dead," one of the neighbours told the Jordan Times.

He added that a kerosene stove was believed to be the cause of the fire. But CDD officials declined comment on the cause of the fire and said they were investigating the incident.

The next door neighbour said that Mr. Faris was mentally ill, and had divorced his wife one day before the incident. "He used to treat his wife

badly and he used to physically abuse her but he never harmed his children," the neighbour added. He said that while the neighbours were putting out the fire, Mr. Faris was sitting outside his house and made no attempt himself to extinguish the blaze.

In Mafrag, a 34-year-old man was killed Sunday when a tank he was soldering exploded in his face, CDD reports said.

According to the report, the victim, Sami M.A., was working in a solder shop in Al Hamra town when the incident occurred.

CDD reports said that the tank contained an explosive material.

"Because of the heat and pressure, the material exploded. The tank was tightly secured, and there was no outlet for the gases and it caused the explosion," a CDD official said.

Arab, Mediterranean meeting on AIDS opens Health ministry calls for AIDS awareness campaign

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Ministry of Health Hani Oweis Monday said there was a need to educate secondary school students on the AIDS (the acquired immune deficiency syndrome) virus through active public awareness strategies developed by official and voluntary sectors.

In an address at the opening here of a four-day meeting of directors of national anti-AIDS programmes in Arab and Mediterranean countries, Dr. Oweis also called for stepping up the role of youth societies and leaderships in such awareness campaigns.

He told the gathering, organised by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO), that Jordan was giving due concern to the problem of AIDS and that in the mid-1980s it launched the national programme for combatting AIDS and set up national task forces which represent all the concerned institutions and sectors.

The programme, he said, entailed holding various public awareness and educational activities, such as seminars and training courses.

The number of AIDS cases in the Kingdom stood at 116 last December, according to the Ministry of Health.

Of this number, 34 were non-Jordanian, the ministry reported.

WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Region Hussein Jaziri also addressed the meeting and outlined the progress achieved in implementing national anti-AIDS campaigns in Arab and Mediterranean countries.

Dr. Jaziri said the meeting aimed to exchange views and experiences as well as to discuss the latest develop-

ments in fighting the epidemic.

This meeting, he added, also intends to pinpoint strengths and weaknesses in these national programmes in order to improve their outcome, "especially that AIDS was quickly spreading in all countries of the world and started to find a foothold in the region."

The main topic that the meeting will discuss is the challenge of planning and implementing national anti-AIDS drives, he said, noting that AIDS is not only a medical problem, but has also other social, economic and legal implications.

"Therefore, the health sector cannot find a solution to the problem of AIDS on its own. It has become a basic requirement that other sectors should also participate in actively finding a solution to the problem," he said.



Hani Oweis

Restaurant owners, municipality reach compromise but proprietors still find exterior space fees steep

By Lola Keitani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A dispute between the Municipality of Greater Amman and restaurant owners appears to have cooled down as the result of a compromise between the municipality and the Restaurant Owners Union.

But restaurant owners still believe that the increase from JD 5 to JD 40 per square metre in up market areas such as Shmeisani, Wasfi Tel Street, and Umm Uthainah, for the use of space around their shops is unjustified.

The municipality decided recently to increase the fees for the use of space around shops up to JD 75 per square metre depending on the area. After negotiations with the Restaurant Owners Union, the municipality agreed to reduce the fees from JD 60 to JD 30 for areas like Abdali and Zahran, and JD 75 to JD 40 for other areas like Shmeisani and Wasfi Tel Street.

The municipality argues

that it is against the code of building regulations to use the space around the shops. Implementing the law means all those shop extensions would be knocked down, but instead of knocking them down, shop owners would pay the extra fees.

"We are doing shop owners a favour," municipality official Mohammad Najdawi told the Jordan Times. "If we implement the law, all extensions and canopies would have been removed, and if the extensions were not financially rewarding, shop owners would not have paid the fees," he said.

Mr. Najdawi insisted that while the municipality did not object to the building of extensions, it did not provide licences for shop owners to use the extra space. "But restaurant owners argued that they did not build the extensions until they had a licence from the municipality."

Coffee shop owner, Wael Faruqi, challenged Mr. Najdawi insisting that he had documents that say

otherwise. "I had a permit before I started building the extensions in the back area of my coffee shop," he said. "The 122-square-metre extension cost me JD 120,000. If I did not build on the back side, that area would have turned into a dump."

Restaurant owner Wadah Daoudi also says that in 1991, he obtained a licence to open his restaurant and build the extensions he needed on the space around the shop.

He invested JD 60,000 on building extensions.

"With the new decision, I have to pay JD 4,040 to the municipality to renew the licence for 1994," says Mr. Daoudi. He added that he will have to increase his prices, "by 10 to 15 per cent to make up for the extra expenses." In addition, his employees will not get an annual wage increase.

Shops using pedestrian pavements will continue to pay the original fees of JD 5 per square metre. The purpose of the low fee is to encourage restaurant pavements, and "to make Am-

man beautiful," said Mr. Najdawi.

"We want pedestrians to walk through the cafe's just like in any European country," he said.

However, if pedestrians could not walk between the tables and chairs and only walk on the street, "it is the responsibility of the municipality district director, who has to clear the matter with the owner of the restaurant."

Amman is divided into 20 districts, each run by an appointed director.

The municipality so far, has not found a solution to the problem raised by shop owners on the use of canopies.

When the decision was first taken, shop owners would have had to pay the same amount of money per square metre for the installation of canopies that a restaurant would pay for the use of an extension for commercial purposes.

A shop owner complained that he had to remove the canopy which protected his place from sun and rain.

"Now rain water comes into the store whenever the door is opened," said store owner Nadie Abu Ragad.

Mr. Najdawi said, "We are looking into this matter. We will have to deal with each case separately, but the decision will take some time because it has to be coordinated with another department — the Appropriations Committee (which is part of the municipality)."

Restaurant owners also complained of what they see as a double standard practised by the municipality. They said that if space is rented from the municipality no extra fees are required.

Mr. Najdawi explained that the extra fees were included in the rent when tenants leased municipality property. "These shops pay key money plus rent. Part of this money is for the use of the space."

But this argument, restaurant owners claim, is weak since municipality properties were rented years before this fee problem arose.

Minister to open hazardous waste symposium

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Nader Thuheirat will open a symposium on Apr. 17 entitled "Hazardous waste in Jordan." Participants in the symposium, which is organised by the Jordanian Engineers Association's Environmental Committee, will discuss working papers dealing with the proper engineering criteria for designing and managing garbage dumps. The papers will cover such issues as the impact of hazardous waste on ground water sources, criteria for selection of hazardous waste dumps, treating hazardous waste, integrated environmental consultation and the local environmental legislation on hazardous waste.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

★ Performance of eastern and Spanish music by Bashir Hijazi at Darat Al Fann at 7:00 p.m.

NEWS

★ ABC News Highlights and McNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Hadia Mu'awshar at Alia Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of art by Ahmad Na'wash at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

★ A collection of photos of Middle East doors by Julia Reinhold at the Gallery, off the main lobby, Inter-Continental Hotel.

★ Exhibition of art by Moroccan artist Farid Belkhaba at Darat Al Fann of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

★ Exhibition of Palestinian embroidery at Goethe-Institut.

★ Exhibition of art by Yassin Atyeh and Yassin Al Muhammadawi at Baladna Art Gallery.

★ Ceramics exhibition by artist Samer Al Khaffaji at Umm Uthaina Gallery.

★ Exhibition of art by William Golding at the British Council.

★ Exhibition of copper sculptures by Iraqi artist Mohammad Hussein Jodi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

★ Exhibition of graphic works by Rafiq Lahham at Darat Al Fann. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists.

★ Exhibition of art by Leo Rialp at Institut Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).

★ Exhibition of prize-winning paintings by Czech students at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Hamoud Chantout at the Balqa' Art Gallery, Fuhels.

RSS celebrates 25th anniversary 'Technological achievements witnessed throughout Kingdom'

By Jennifer Hamarneh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS), which like many national institutions has garnered praise and endured harsh criticism, this month celebrates 25 years of scientific study, design, manufacturing and testing that have in one way or another affected the lives of nearly everyone in the Kingdom.

Probably the major allegations flung at the RSS were that it was staffed with scientists sitting in their "ivory towers" tinkering with expensive, high-tech equipment and ignoring requirements of the country.

As part of its celebrations of its silver anniversary, the RSS flung its doors wide open to the press and the industrial sector for a serious tour of the RSS at work.

Although the tour was arranged, guests were free to roam around and ask questions of any of the staff, not just the directors who were accompanying the tour group.

Heads of laboratories Yahia Abu Khalid and Samer Kharouf, for example, took time out in the Radiation Protection Laboratory to give an impromptu explanation of their work and how it affects the lives of people working with radioactive materials as well as the average citizen.

For instance, said Messrs. Abu Khalid and Kharouf, testing of imported foods for radionuclides covered 100 per cent of food samples coming into the country following the Chernobyl nuclear reactor accident in the former Soviet Union in 1989. With the gradual dissa-

tion of such food products and their inherent dangers, in 1993 the RSS succeeded in testing for radionuclides on 30 per cent of imported foods would be a safe and adequate level, said the two young scientists.

The brainchild of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the RSS owes its success, say its senior officials, to the continuity of its staff and progressive nature of its mandate.

Unlike other institutions which have frequent and high turnover rates, the RSS senior staff have 10 to more than 20 years of service under their belts. What keeps them motivated is the recognition, albeit slow in some sectors, and eventual application of their work for the development of the country.

For example, one of its more widely-known areas of research and development (R&D) has been carried out by its Renewable Energy Research Centre. The centre's director, Malek Kabariiti, explained that although the centre itself was established in 1983, activities in this area of energy began at the RSS's Mechanical Engineering Department in the early 70s.

A 1982 study, said Mr. Kabariiti, proved the use of renewable energy to be promising in three areas: 1) heating of water for domestic and industrial applications, 2) water pumping in remote areas using solar cells or wind energy, and 3) electrification of villages and population settlements which are not connected to the national grid.

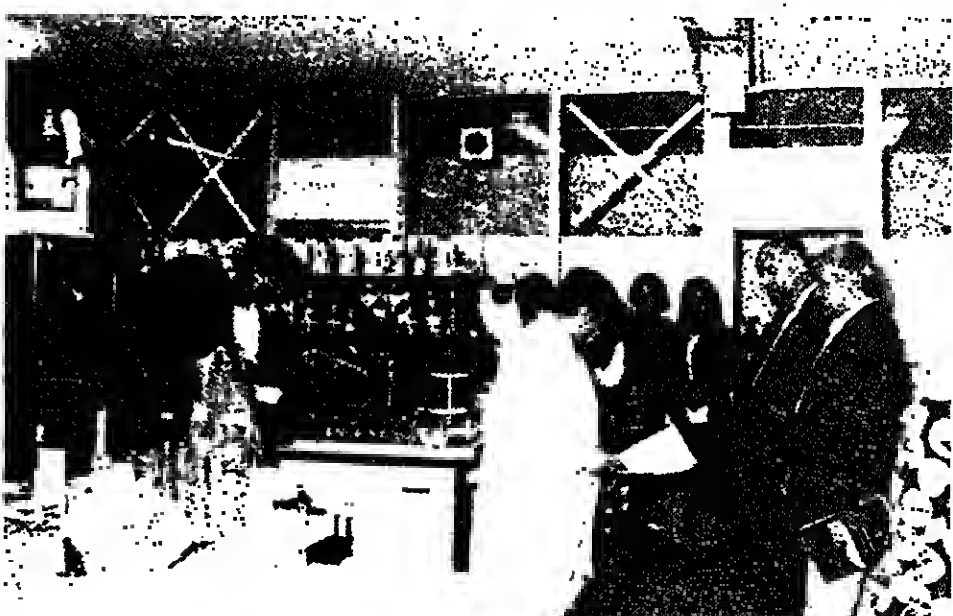
According to Mr. Kabariiti, a graduate of the University of Texas and West Virginia University in the U.S., the consequent

Energy Research Centre brought about the design, testing and improvement of solar water heaters, the installation of more than 1,000 such heaters throughout the country, and the eventual development of standards and specifications which were and continue to be transferred to local companies for their application.

In addressing the press and representatives of the industrial sector this week, RSS President Hani Mulqi highlighted several RSS achievements, among which were significant strides resulting from the work of the RSS's Renewable Energy Research Centre, which he himself established in his earlier tenure at the society and which has been financed primarily by grants totalling approximately DM 10 million (nearly JD 4 million) from the government of Germany.

Those strides, according to Dr. Mulqi, were that 35 per cent of homes in Jordan currently utilise solar water heaters, that the first solar water heater patent in the country was issued by RSS to a local company, and most recently a call for bids put out by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation for water pumping systems stipulated that an alternative consideration would be solar energy systems.

Water, the most precious of natural resources, and that much more precious in an arid country, now reaches people in the remote areas of the Kingdom, throughout use of solar energy, wind energy, or both pumping systems. Since 1983, said Mr. Kabariiti, the Renewable Energy Research Centre has pumped 1.3 million cubic metres (mcm) of water using renewable energy.



Twp tawjihi students from around the Scientific Society's Industrial Chemistry Kingdom tour a laboratory at the Royal Centre last Saturday.

According to Mr. Kabariiti, the use of photo voltaic cells in energy creation has been applied in the functioning of road lights in remote areas, because for the Civil Aviation Authority at two units in the southern part of the country, lighting systems for schools, police stations and health clinics and television reception for schools in remote areas for the morning transmissions of educational programmes.

Mr. Kabariiti, a strong proponent of energy conservation and the enforcement of related regulations, explained that the end product of all the work of the RSS is to transfer the acquired technology to the public and private sectors for cost-beneficial application, improvement of living standards and progress in development.

Another major area of work where this mandate has been applied has been conducted by the Building

Materials Research Centre. Centre Director Seif Eddin Muaz said the aim here has always been towards finding functional and efficient low-cost housing and other construction materials suitable to the needs of an ever-expanding population.

In remote areas again, the Building Materials Research Centre has constructed more than 400 classrooms. It has built housing complexes utilising its own System 5 prefabricated assembling of bricks.

According to Dr. Muaz, a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the U.S., the beauty of System 5 is that two people can construct a home that is not only low-cost and efficient but is energy-saving and earthquake-resistant. The System 5 method is currently being used by local manufacturers to build schools under the supervision of the RSS.

Dr. Muaz said the centre

has also developed building codes and applications.

RSS Vice President Said Alloush, who has been with the organisation since 1976, said the society currently employs about 600 technical and administrative staff on its premises in Jubeiha as well as in field stations around the country. The society's 6.4 million budget, said Dr. Alloush, is generated from its own work, not government subsidies.

According to President Mulqi, the RSS has proved that, with continuity, perseverance and strong team effort, Jordanian professionals can provide useful consultation services to the private and public sectors. The positive recognition of the work of RSS by both sectors is now a fait accompli, said Dr. Mulqi. In the next few years, the aim will be towards acquiring international standards certification — a goal within reach, adds Dr. Mulqi.

Chechen residents recount horrors of Russian assault

Russians bomb mountain villages

SAMASHKI, Russia (AFP) — Residents of this small Chechen village captured by Russian troops recounted with horror Monday how the Russians burnt their homes, killed civilians and committed other atrocities in their assault.

"They shouted from in front of the house if anyone was inside and if we were Chechens," said Malika Mayerbolova, 42, who was among 11 residents being evacuated Monday by the Russian Ministry of Emergencies. "I told them yes, that there was a woman and two elderly people inside. They then threw a grenade and both my parents were killed."

She said all the men in the village — which now has 1,000 residents compared to 13,000 before the war — were arrested or executed by the Russians who captured the village Saturday.

Sitting next to her in the truck transporting the injured out of the region, Ayshat Israilova, her arms covered with burns, recounted how Russian soldiers doused her home with petrol and set it on fire despite the fact that there were people inside. She said all the men trying to flee the inferno were arrested.

The two women said that the soldiers, who since January had met with fierce resistance in Samashki, showed proof of "unlimited cruelty" in capturing the village Saturday.

Israilova said one elderly woman was severely burned after being assured by Russian soldiers that she could reenter her home. But as soon as she did so, the house, already doused with petrol, was set aflame and the woman barely managed to escape.

Another evacuee, Satsita Arseymirova, 44, said she wanted to rescue her baby only thanks to a Muslim Russian soldier who intervened on her behalf.

She said her husband was carrying the child as the couple tried to flee and Russian soldiers initially prevented her from recovering the baby.

Meanwhile soldiers Monday were still blocking entry into the ravaged village, including to the Red Cross.

As a result groups of people gathered at the nearest control post seeking news of relatives or friends.

Among them was a young Chechen fighter dressed in civilian clothes. The man,

who would only give his first name, Timur, said he fled the town Saturday when Russian tanks broke through rebel defence lines.

He said the intensity of the assault was probably due to the fact that the Russians suffered heavy losses during a previous attempt to capture the town.

People fleeing the village at the weekend said most of the rebels had sought refuge in forests nearby. Some residents also said that in the last hours before the village fell, separatist fighters killed several village elders who wanted them to leave the city in order to save it from destruction.

Russian forces marched into the breakaway republic early December to crush a three-year-old independence drive.

Russian planes bombed mountains above the village of Shatoi in southern Chechnya, refugees from the village 60 kilometres (40 miles) south of the capital Grozny, reported Monday.

The refugees said they did not know if there were any casualties.

Meanwhile other refugees fleeing the plains for the neighbouring Republic of

Dagestan said Russian artillery shelled around the villages of Chiri-Yurt and Duba-Yurt, 30 and 35 kilometres (18 and 21 miles) south of Grozny, overnight to Monday.

Russian forces are concentrating their fire on the villages, the last two on the main route to Shatoi, because seizing them would isolate Shatoi, leaving it cut off by all except a few barely-driveable mountain roads.

The Shatoi region is the home of Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev whom the Russians seek.

Earlier Russian warplanes staged bombing raids in the mountainous region of Nozhai-Yurt in the east of the republic, while tanks were seen firing three or four shells at houses in Mairup, 40 kilometres (25 miles) south-east of Grozny.

Most Chechen rebel fighters have fled to the Caucasus Mountains following the fall of their cities to Russian forces who marched into the republic early December to crush a three-year-old independence drive.

Many village elders are now trying to make deals with Russian local military commanders to save their villages from devastation.



A Russian soldier talks to a Chechen boy sitting on a donkey in Chervilboyye, some 20 kilometres from Grozny. The conflict between Russian and separatist Chechen forces looks set to be decided in the mountain villages of the Caucasus following recent advances by Russian troops (AFP photo)

BBC, French institute film Mitterrand interviews

CANNES, Cannes (AFP) — The BBC and the French National Audiovisual Institute (INA) are filming a series of three interviews with French President Francois Mitterrand. INA's director Jean-Pierre Teyssier announced here. The documentary series is aimed at marking the end in May of the 78-year-old French president's second and final seven-year term in office, Teyssier said.

Sharks wing their way to Japan

SYDNEY (AFP) — A shipment of sharks, rays and other fish will leave here Tuesday bound for Fukuoka, Japan. A Qantas freight flight will carry the 35 sharks and other marine life in nine specially-designed tanks which hold 25 tonnes of sea water. The fish, heading for the Marine World aquarium in Fukuoka, include Port Jackson sharks, wobbegongs, Easter and shovel-nose rays, white-tipped pointers and groupers. "The tanks and equipment needed to pump oxygen through the tanks to simulate movement for the sharks will bring the total load up to 55 tonnes," a Qantas spokesman said Monday. "Sharks need to keep swimming to push oxygenated water over their gills," he said. "Normally this wouldn't be possible in a small tank, but Ocean World people here have developed a way to simulate this for fish." It's not the first time the Australian carrier has transported exotic cargo — the airline recently carried black rhinoceros from Africa to Australia and deer to Mexico.

Ramos acts to save historic Manila theatre

MANILA (AFP) — President Fidel Ramos Monday said he had directed the Philippine palace legal counsel to seek ways to save a historic theatre in the Philippine capital from being torn down to make way for a shopping mall. A place statement quoted Mr. Ramos saying it would be "a win-win situation," if the state pension fund, which owns the Manila Metropolitan Theatre, could work with the Manila city government and the private sector to rehabilitate the place. The art-deco theatre, dating back to the 1930s, has been the site of many prestigious cultural events and is one of the few major buildings to survive the destruction of Manila during World War II. But the condition of the theatre has been steadily deteriorating due to budget cuts and poor attendances.

'More British women shunning motherhood'

LONDON (R) — About 20 per cent of women born in Britain since 1965 are expected to choose not to have children, a report released on Monday said. The family policy studies centre said that was about double the percentage of the previous generation. It cited poverty, broken relationships, the inability to find a suitable partner and growing work and career pressures as reasons for the trend. The centre's report followed a set of figures published last month that showed a rising number of British women were delaying starting a family until their late 30s or early 40s.

Opposition questions Fujimori win

LIMA (R) — President Alberto Fujimori won a second term by scoring a landslide victory in Peru's elections, according to polls and early results, but chief opponent Javier Perez De Cuellar said the unfair campaign conditions he faced shed doubt on the outcome.

With 16 per cent of the vote counted, the National Elections Board said Mr. Fujimori led with 65.2 per cent of the valid vote over Mr. Perez De Cuellar's 22 per cent. Due to technical problems, the 50 per cent result was to be released later Monday, it said.

"There is no magic wand which can resolve the problems of a country in five years," Mr. Fujimori told foreign correspondents late Sunday after polling agencies predicted he won a second five years with more than 60 per cent of the valid vote.

"That is why the Peruvian people... have not wanted to cut short this process," Mr. Fujimori said, adding his aim was to convert Peru into the leading country in Latin America.

But Mr. Perez De Cuellar,

a former United Nations secretary general, said Mr. Fujimori's government lacked the will "to consolidate democracy... and therefore I have no confidence in the procedures (in place) to guarantee it."

Conceding defeat at his headquarters, the 75-year-old retired diplomat said he had faced unequal conditions against Mr. Fujimori in the race, adding "we will never know to what point the result reflected the people's will."

Opponents charged that Mr. Fujimori used his office and the state's resources to further his reelection bid, timing the televised openings of schools and public works projects to enhance his reelection campaign. Critics also said local officials had illegally campaigned on his behalf.

"As far as we know, the people preferred to reward the eradication of terrorism and hyperinflation, although at the same time failed to assure a democratic future with social justice," said Mr. Perez De Cuellar.

Mr. Fujimori, the 56-year-old son of Japanese immi-

grants, has maintained a high level of popular support during his five-year rule by slashing inflation, stabilising the economy and virtually stamping out a bloody 15-year-old Maoist insurgency.

But his critics say Mr. Fujimori, whose decision in 1992 to close Congress allowed the writing of a new constitution which made his reelection possible, is an authoritarian ruler who has failed to strengthen democratic institutions.

Unofficial results from 99 per cent of a nationwide sample of voters showed Mr. Fujimori with 63.7 per cent of the valid vote, polling from Apoyo S.A. said. Mr. Perez De Cuellar gained 24.4 per cent.

Apoyo S.A. said its figures showed Mr. Fujimori's party would likely win a majority in the Congress with 51 per cent of the vote. Pollsters had predicted he would not have a majority.

Taking a conciliatory tone towards his opponent, Mr. Fujimori said: "I salute Dr. Perez De Cuellar for having participated in this campaign in this campaign."

Dole makes third bid for presidency

TOPEKA, Kan. (R) — Senator Bob Dole formally jumped into the Republican race for president Monday for the third time in 15 years, portraying himself as a tested war veteran and seasoned party leader who could restore "the spirit of America" to a troubled country.

The 71-year-old Senate majority leader entered the fray as the oldest of six declared candidates, the front-runner in the field and the most experienced politician.

He chose the Kansas state capitol for his announcement — scene of his first political triumph over 40 years ago as a state legislator in 1951 — but changed his plans because of threatened stormy weather for an indoor sports arena.

In his prepared remarks, Sen. Dole recalled his World War II experience when he went off to war as a youngster and was severely wounded in Italy by an enemy attack that nearly killed him and left him with a right arm he cannot use.

He paid tribute to the folks in his small hometown of Russell, Kan., who helped him recuperate from his wounds and helped him get a start in civilian life after the war.

"Because they restored my spirit in a time of trial, I have dedicated myself to restoring the spirit of America," Sen. Dole said. "And so, tem-

pered by adversity, seasoned by experience, mindful of the world as it is — yet confident it can be made better — I have come home to Kansas with a grateful heart to declare that I am a candidate for the president of the United States."

He said the view of many Americans "is a sobering one. We are troubled about the direction our country is taking" and said values are under "constant assault" from public and cultural institutions.

This is his third bid since 1980 for the Republican nomination. His first try was in 1980 and his last attempt in 1988 ended in a bitter loss to George Bush. He also was a loser in 1976 as the vice presidential nominee in President Gerald Ford's loss to Jimmy Carter.

"Our problems are not too difficult to handle," Sen. Dole said. "It's just that our leaders have grown too isolated from places like Topeka — embarrassed by the values here." Sen. Dole said of the midwestern conservatism in this wheat-growing state.

Embracing conservative themes, Sen. Dole aimed to attract votes of conservatives who dominate the party and are expected to make up most of the voting delegates in the presidential nominating convention in San Diego in August 1996.

"If we are truly to rein in government, we must have a president who is more than a clever apologist for the status quo," Sen. Dole said. "In 1992, Bill Clinton ran for president as the candidate of change. In 1996, he will seek reelection as a candidate pledged to prevent change at all cost."

Sen. Dole, a conservative with a moderate civil rights record often distrusted by the far right, pledged to pursue a conservative agenda, including closing four major government departments — education, housing and urban development, energy and commerce.

Sen. Dole joins the field as the best known among the candidates. Polls show him almost 30 percentage points ahead of his nearest rival, Texas Senator Phil Gramm, who nevertheless has raised more money than Sen. Dole by some \$13 million to Sen. Dole's \$4 million.

Other candidates include conservative commentator Pat Buchanan, former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander, Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter and talk show host Alan Keyes. California representative Robert Dornan and Indiana Senator Richard Lugar are expected to enter the race later this month. California Governor Pete Wilson says he is a candidate but has not formally announced.

Mexico, Chiapas rebels to start talks

SAN MIGUEL, Mexico (R) — Envoys of the Mexican government and Zapatista rebels in the southern state of Chiapas agreed late Sunday to begin peace talks April 20 to end a 15-month-old uprising.

The two sides agreed after 12 hours of sometimes ill-tempered talks in this Chiapas jungle village to begin substantial peace negotia-

tions in the Chiapas town of San Andres Larrainzar, which they declared the "permanent site" of peace efforts.

The self-styled Zapatista National Liberation Army rose up in arms in January 1994 to demand greater democracy and indigenous rights. Most of the movement's members are Maya Indians.

Interior Ministry representative Gustavo Truigas and Zapatista Commander "Tacho" signed the agreement shortly before midnight (0600 GMT) after a day's talks in a wooden shack in this village on the edge of the Lacandon Jungle.

Chiapas Bishop Samuel Ruiz, who is mediating these efforts, also signed as a witness.

Sleaze allegations haunt Major's government

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major's accident-prone government was mired in fresh sleaze allegations Monday and a senior conservative politician warned of defeat at the next general election.

Less than 24 hours after conservative MP Richard Spring was forced to resign as a ministerial aide following newspaper tales of a "three-in-a-bed sex romp," a more prominent minister faced allegations over his business and personal dealings with a Saudi prince.

Spring was the 17th Conservative politician to have departed under a cloud since Mr. Major took office three years ago.

Coupled with vicious infighting over Europe and repeated assaults on Mr. Major's leadership qualities, the government has plunged 35 points behind the opposition Labour Party in opinion polls.

Lord Jeffrey Archer, a former deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, Monday joined the long list of politicians to plead for unity.

"I believe that if we go on quarrelling with ourselves in public and we appear on radio and television fighting each other and not the Labour Party, we will lose (the next election) and we will lose badly and we will deserve to lose," Mr. Archer told BBC Radio.

"We must show some unity and get behind the prime minister," he added.

Further trouble was brewing however over Jonathan Aitken, chief secretary to the treasury and the target of a potentially damaging television documentary programme to be screened on Monday evening.

U.S. researchers may have tested radiation effects on Oak Ridge workers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Researchers outlined an elaborate plan in 1949 to use workers at a Tennessee uranium processing plant to learn more about the long-term effects of chronic radiation exposure on humans, a recently declassified document shows.

Although details about the proposed Oak Ridge, Tennessee, studies are sketchy, the document suggests the aim was focused more on using the workers as guinea pigs to learn about radiation health effects than on worker protection, said one investigator.

"There is an opportunity to secure the type of medical information required... to interpret, in terms of human experience, the toxicological findings of small animal research," the researchers argued in detailing the proposed studies.

At the time, in the first years of the cold war, re-

latively little was known about radiation's effect on the body at various exposure levels. Scientists considered workers in the weapons plants as obvious subjects for close study and research because of their known exposure despite some limited efforts at protection.

The Oak Ridge document and other findings are to be discussed this week at a meeting of the president's advisory committee on human radiation experiments, which for a year has been examining the government's use of humans in radiation experiments during the decades of the cold war.

The five-page memorandum was found by advisory committee investigators earlier this year in a vault containing hundreds of boxes of classified material at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee.

Recently declassified, the memorandum provides little

information about the workers except that they were involved in uranium processing and were known to be subject to radiation exposure despite protective ventilation equipment.

"It's unclear what these workers were told, whether these plans were shared with them, and whether they were ever told about their exposures," says a staff summary prepared for the presidential advisory panel.

Noting the need to learn more about health effects from such exposure, the researchers recommended the studies be "inaugurated as soon as possible." While the document, written by a scientist at Oak Ridge, suggested the plan had been thoroughly discussed and given wide support, it's not certain to what extent the proposal was implemented.

Investigators believe it was pursued at least to some degree.

Gore: CIA needs to reassess targets, shed cold war habits

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's need for quality intelligence-gathering is greater than ever in today's complicated world, but the CIA needs to focus on correct targets and "shed some of the old habits of the cold war," Vice President Al Gore said.

Intelligence collecting has "enormous value to the country and to the president as commander-in-chief to stay ahead of potential problems," Mr. Gore said on NBC's Meet The Press. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

The vice president was questioned about the need for a massive Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the context of post-cold war challenges such as those involving Haiti and Guatemala.

"The world's more complicated than ever in the aftermath of the cold war," Mr. Gore said. "We see problems springing up all over the place that could, if not attended to, threaten American national interests... the need for and value of a high-quality intelligence service is probably greater now than it has ever been, but its assets need to be focused on the right targets, and it needs to shed some of the old habits of the cold war."

Mr. Gore called Deputy Defence Secretary John

Deutch, President Bill Clinton's nominee for the new Central Intelligence Agency chief, "a truly outstanding candidate" who will dig into questions of the agency's appropriate size and function.

In Haiti, Mr. Gore said "there is no credible evidence from any source" that President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has been involved in planned assassinations of political opponents.

Senate Foreign Committee Chairman Jesse Helms, a Republican from North Carolina, has asked Mr. Clinton to suspend all further aid to Haiti until such accusations against the Aristide government are solved. The U.S. Defence Department has provided the U.S. embassy in Haiti a list of 27 potential anti-Aristide assassination targets.

"As for the list," Mr. Gore said in answer to questions, "there are all kinds of rumours constantly down there, and it's only responsible to try to keep track of them and inform our embassy so they can consult with the government... where they need to."

Warning those on the target list, he said, would depend "on whether the list is credible" and the results of consultation with Mr. Aris-

tide's government.

Haiti's 200-year "culture of political violence," Mr. Gore said, has been subsiding but "it's unrealistic to expect that the pattern that prevailed for so long was going to just suddenly completely disappear" in spite of "the spectacular success engineered by President Clinton and our military there, restoring democracy with virtually no loss of life... a virtuoso performance balancing diplomacy and the use of military force."

The vice president deferred to Congress and a planning House Ethics Committee investigation the controversy over alleged security violations by Rep. Robert Torricelli in discussing the involvement of a CIA informant in killings in Guatemala of an American and an American's husband. The affair has prompted House Speaker Newt Gingrich to seek Mr. Torricelli's ouster from the House Intelligence Committee.

Mr. Torricelli's dilemma seems to be "that he had two conflicting duties, one as a member of the committee and one as a member of Congress not to be party to an organised deception, and how he balanced those two duties will be reviewed by his colleagues," Mr. Gore said.

Quebec separatists revise strategy on secession

MONTREAL (R) — Quebec's most popular political leader softened his position Sunday on the province's secession from Canada, calling for close economic ties between Canada and a sovereign Quebec similar to those in the European Union.

At the national convention of the Bloc Quebecois, a separatist party that sits as the official opposition in Canada's national parliament, leader Lucien Bouchard invoked the European Union as a model of the ideal economic relationship between Canada and a separate Quebec.

The convention delegates adopted a resolution calling for the study of the establishment of a "common parliamentary conference" should Quebec leave Canada.

Mr. Bouchard described it as a "meeting place," a body of delegates or ministers from

Canada and Quebec that could be fashioned after the European Union.

"It could be a good thing. We see it as a possibility," Mr. Bouchard said in a speech to delegates Sunday.

The resolution was at odds with the strategy of Jacques Parizeau, Quebec premier and leader of the separatist alliance, who has never proposed such close ties between Canada and a sovereign Quebec.

"I have a lot of scepticism about English Canada accepting things of that kind," Mr. Parizeau told reporters in Quebec City Sunday. "If Canada were to offer us the Maastricht Treaty, we would jump on it and say yes."

Mr. Bouchard acknowledged that his proposal was a departure from the separatists' common strategy, but he said that with his own party's national convention underway he could not wait for the

Quebec premier to produce a revised plan of action.

Since early this year, public opinion polls have shown that only 40 to 45 per cent of Quebecers would support Quebec's separation from Canada.

Last week, Mr. Parizeau said a promised referendum on Quebec separation would be held this autumn rather than this spring, a gambit that the separatists hope will give them more time to bolster public support for their cause.

Mr. Bouchard's economic union proposal was aimed at assuaging Quebecers' fears that an independent Quebec would be isolated economically from the rest of Canada.

"What was done by this convention was done to improve the chances of holding a winning referendum that would make Quebec a sovereign country," Mr. Bouchard said at a press conference Sunday.

Delegates to the Bloc Quebecois convention hotly debated the economic union proposal, with some telling party leaders they were opposed to such a change in the separatist platform. Political analysts said the proposal could signal a widening gap between Mr. Parizeau and Mr. Bouchard, who polls show is Quebec's favourite politician.

On Sunday, Mr. Bouchard played down any suggestion that his new strategy would cause a rift in Quebec's separatist forces.

"If I thought there was such a risk, I never would have proposed this at the convention," Mr. Bouchard said.

Mr. Parizeau also scoffed at the idea the two men were divided on referendum strategy, but when asked who was the leader of the separatist alliance, he replied: "I know there is only one premier of Quebec."

1st Stalin stamp for 40 years issued

MOSCOW (R) — Russia has issued a World War II commemorative postage stamp featuring the head of former Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin, the first stamp in more than 40 years to depict him, Russian Mayak Radio said. The stamp — displayed at a war veterans' meeting in Moscow — depicts 1945 Yalta conference leaders Stalin, Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill against a world map, said Mayak, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation. Stalin — who orchestrated both the Soviet war machine against Nazi Germany and a reign of terror at home in which millions of citizens died in work camps — was last depicted on a Soviet postage stamp in 1954, one year after his death.

World News

Filipino military seals rebel escape routes

SIOCON, Philippines (AP)

Naval gunboats patrolled offshore and helicopter-borne infantry sealed escape routes in the mountains as the military tightened its move on Muslim extremists who ransacked a town last week.

The Armed Forces' Southern Command said that as of late Sunday, 19 Abu Sayyaf gunmen had been killed since they raided Ipi, a Christian town of about 50,000 people some 770 kilometres (480 miles) south of Manila, last Tuesday.

Four government troops and five civilians taken hostage by the gunmen have been killed, the military said. Soldiers said hostages were forced to carry weapons, making it difficult to distinguish them from the rebels.

At least 53 people, nearly all civilians were killed in the Ipi raid.

In Zamboanga, Maj. Gen. Edgardo Batanga, the southern regional commander, said navy gunboats were sealing off escape routes by sea and that ground forces had the insurgents surrounded.

On Sunday, air force helicopters rocketed suspected Abu Sayyaf bands for a fourth straight day. Maj. Nehrur Yurong, a battalion commander, said the gunships may have inflicted more casualties but it was too dangerous to check for bodies.

The terrain is difficult, and the gunmen have heavy weapons. Maj. Yurong said the Muslims have been planting mines along trails and booby-trapping their dead.

Maj. Yurong said Muslim forces had split into at least three groups and were eluding troops in the rugged, forested mountains here about 30 miles (50 kilometres) west of Ipi.

But junior officers, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal, complained that the pursuit operation was being hampered by supply and coordination problems.

They said patrols spotted a group of Abu Sayyaf fighters early Sunday and radioed for reinforcements at 6 a.m. but it took seven hours for the reinforcements to arrive by helicopter. They also complained that on occasions the helicopters landed troops in the wrong place.

Maj. Yurong said the gunmen are believed to be holding up to 20 hostages. But he said the precise number is difficult to determine because the insurgents release a few from time to time and then take others.

A 51-year-old woman, Lucia Oso, said that gunmen took two of her sons last Friday after stealing her chickens. She said the extremists appeared exhausted after nearly a week on the run.

The government claims Abu Sayyaf has links to international terror groups. Abu Sayyaf members have previously been linked to defendants in the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing and to plots to kill Pope John Paul II and blow up U.S. airliners.

The group has been blamed for numerous bombings, killings and kidnappings of Christians in the Philippines since 1991.

In Ipi, a Roman Catholic leader cautioned against an anti-Muslim backlash. "I hope and pray, and I keep on repeating it to the people, not to blame the Muslims here," Bishop Frederico Escaler said. "For years, we lived side-by-side in peace, cooperation and collaboration with our Muslim brothers."

But the bishop added: "It could be that some of them were involved because some of the raiders came from the sea and that's where our Muslim brothers live."

Interior Secretary Rafael Alunan told a Senate Defence Committee hearing that the Philippines may be used by fanatical religious groups to prepare for a worldwide holy war.

"We have established strong connections between the Abu Sayyaf and foreign terrorist groups," he told the session, echoing the opinions of police and military officials.



A Bosnian Muslim woman balances in the debris of her home as she collects her last belongings in the rubble of Sarajevo's suburb of Hrasnica after it was totally damaged in recent shelling from Serbian positions. Her sister was killed when a shell hit the building. The Bosnian capital was hit by several shells, injuring at least three people (AFP photo)

Sri Lanka revives stalled peace bid

COLOMBO (AFP)

The Sri Lankan government reopened peace talks with the Tamil Tiger rebels Monday with the help of an Anglican bishop — despite the weekend killings of two soldiers which shattered a fragile truce.

"They are likely to discuss the outstanding economic demands of the LTTE (the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam). But there will also be some questions on the killing of the two soldiers," a defence official said.

The LTTE has denied responsibility for the killings outside the northern Palmy military base in the Jaffna peninsula Saturday. The two soldiers were the first army casualties since a truce went into effect on Jan. 8.

The peace delegation was taken by helicopter to Jaffna town. The Anglican Bishop of Colombo and two other members of the delegation will stay in Jaffna while the others will return to the capital Colombo today, an official said.

Bishop Kenneth Fernando is the first religious leader in this mainly Buddhist country to be directly involved in the search for a settlement to the protracted ethnic conflict which has claimed over 30,000 lives since 1972.

Bishop Fernando and two academics in the official delegation — Charles Abeysekera and Jayadeva Uyangoda — have been in Jaffna for weeks for unofficial talks with the Tigers as part of a private peace initiative.

The latest round of talks between the government and the LTTE came just nine days before a deadline set by the rebels for the government to completely lift an economic embargo and allow them unrestricted fishing.

The Tigers pushed back their original March 28 deadline after President Chandrika Kumaratunga announced that she was willing to consider lifting the ban on diesel and gasoline imposed on LTTE-held territory.

Mrs. Kumaratunga has refused to accept any ultimatum and has accused the LTTE of seeking a military advantage from the peace process.

Mr. Ivanko said Mr. Smith had reminded the Bosnian Serb leadership that he could order air strikes against targets other than the actual firing point if he felt it warranted.

U.N. commanders have become increasingly reluctant to use their powers to order the bombing of Bosnian Serb forces attacking Muslim civilians areas, fearful of peacekeepers being taken hostage and suffering reprisals.

Bosnian Serb attacks on U.N.-declared "safe areas" like Sarajevo have increased dramatically in the last weeks in the wake of a twin-pronged Bosnian government army offensive that blew apart a four-month truce and won strategic ground.

British Prime Minister John Major called on the government and the Bosnian Serbs to respect the crumbling ceasefire, due to expire in three weeks and which major power peace negotiators want both sides to extend.

"The parties to the Bosnian conflict should head this appeal," Mr. Major said in London. "They are quite literally playing with fire. If they rekindle all-out war, I do not believe that any of the participants will be able to make lasting gains."

Officials from the contact group — Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States — are due in Balkan capitals to push for a truce extension and offer Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic a suspension of sanctions on Belgrade in return for recognising Bosnia and Croatia.

The contact group believes Mr. Milosevic's recognition of his neighbours independence will further isolate the Bosnian Serbs and pressure them to accept a peace plan dividing Bosnia roughly in half that they have steadfastly refused.

The Bosnian government says it must keep up military pressure on the Serbs to force them to trade some of the 70 per cent of the country they hold as part of a peace deal.

Despite international appeals fighting has not stopped. The U.N. said 60 shells a minute were fired in an artillery attack launched in central Bosnia Monday morning. It did not say which side was responsible.

Two children were killed Monday when shells slammed into their secondary school in government-held Tesanj, in the north of the country, a U.N. Protection Force spokesman said here.

Yuri Shishayev said a total of 49 explosions were recorded in Tesanj town as shelling escalated along nearby confrontation lines, in an area known as the Maglaj finger.

A total of 71 detonations — the U.N.'s usual terminology for shelling — were recorded a few kilometres (miles) northwest of Tesanj, near Jelah. And more than 350 were recorded further to the southeast, Shishayev said.

In northeast Bosnia, fighting continued in the Majevica Hills area for control of the Stolica peak, where Serb forces, defending a television and communication relay tower, have been fighting off government attacks for the past three weeks.

Serb forces opened fire with heavy machine guns at a Pakistani U.N. resupply convoy, near Ribnica, also in the north of the country, Monday morning, but there were no injuries, the spokesman said. Fire was returned.

Meanwhile, a Polish U.N. soldier was shot dead Monday after the Croatian army fired on a U.N. observation post along a demarcation line between Croatia forces and Croatian Serb fighters, a U.N. spokesman in Zagreb reported.

The unidentified soldier was shot near Vojnovac in the northern sector of a demarcation zone set up by the U.N. in territory held by the separatist Croatian Serbs, spokesman Christopher Guinness said.

He said he thought it was the first time a "blue helmet," a term used to describe U.N. soldiers, had been killed by the Croatian army. An inquiry was underway, he added.

The Krajina region is a disputed area covering a quarter of Croatia where Croatian Serbs have declared a self-styled Serb Republic of Krajina.

Elsewhere Serbs fired on Belgian U.N. troops in northeastern Croatia to force them to abandon an observation point on its border with Serbia-Montenegro, Mr. Guinness said.

U.S. senator: S. Korean reactors non-negotiable

SEOUL (AFP)

A U.S. senator warned North Korea Monday that it had no choice but to take South Korean reactors under its accord with Washington, adding that the deal was off if Pyongyang restarted a frozen nuclear facility.

Senior U.S. Senator Charles Robb issued the warning at a news conference after the headline Communist state in the North cancelled his scheduled visit there at the last minute.

South Korean monitors meanwhile reported a call for army readiness in Pyongyang as tensions over the stalled nuclear accord rose again ahead of the resumption of U.S.-North Korean negotiations on Wednesday in Berlin.

Under the October 1994 U.S.-North Korean agreement in Geneva, Pyongyang is to receive two new 1,000-megawatt reactors in exchange for scrapping a nuclear weapons programme, and ties with the United States would be gradually normalised.

Sen. Robb, a senior member of the U.S. Senate foreign relations, armed services and intelligence committees, said North Korea should recognise that the reactors "must and will come from South Korea."

"There was no ambiguity during the course of the negotiations as to who will furnish the reactors and how it would be paid for," Sen. Robb said.

But North Korea Saturday flatly refused to take South Korean reactors, and Seoul responded Sunday by saying the negotiations would be aborted if Pyongyang again rejected the offer in Berlin.

Sen. Robb dismissed the possibility that other countries could lead the project to appease North Korea, saying Seoul must be the "primary contractor."

He said he was about to visit North Korea from here as part of an Asia-Pacific swing, but the trip was cancelled at the last minute.

U.N. resumes returning Rwandan refugees to camps

NAIROBI (R) — The U.N. refugee agency Monday resumed an operation to return tens of thousands of Rwandan refugees in Burundi to camps they abandoned in fear of ethnic attacks nearly two weeks ago.

The operation to truck the refugees back to their camps was suspended Saturday after a grenade attack on a U.N. convoy, the agency's spokesman in Burundi, Paul Stromberg, told Reuters.

Mr. Stromberg, in a telephone interview, said eight Rwandan Hutu refugees were injured in the attack by the ethnically volatile Ngizi province.

"One grenade bounced into the back of the truck wounding eight, five of them seriously," Mr. Stromberg said. "They are all in a stable condition, but one woman is at risk of losing her leg."

In Nairobi, UNHCR spokesman Peter Kessler said some 4,600 out of over 40,000 refugees who fled the camps had been transported back to camps by Saturday. He said slightly over 5,000 would be moved back to camps daily as of Monday.

"We hope to move slightly over 5,000 refugees a day back to the camps. This movement is a result of an agreement with the government of Burundi for them to boost security around the camps," Mr. Kessler said.

The refugee saga erupted on March 28 when the Rwandans, who fled genocide and civil war in their homeland last year, emptied camps in Burundi and headed for neighbouring Tanzania following an upsurge of ethnic violence in Burundi between majority Hutus and minority Tutsis.

But their journey was cut short after Tanzania, already bursting with 750,000 refugees who fled ethnic strife in Rwanda last year and past violence in Burundi, slammed shut its border to stop them from entering.

The East African nation has since turned down appeals from the United Nations, aid agencies and neighbouring countries to reopen the border.

Airbus lost engine control — Romania probe

BUCHAREST (R) — A Romanian Airbus plane to the ground last month, killing all 60 people aboard, when its right engine failed to respond to a command to cut power, an inquiry commission said Monday.

The statement was issued after Belgian Foreign Minister Eric Derycke blamed technical failure, not a terrorist attack for the crash which occurred minutes after takeoff from Brussels.

The commission formally ruled out the possibility of a bomb causing the crash — a theory that gained impetus when a witness reported an explosion aboard the plane as it plunged to the ground.

"It looks as though the command lever of the right engine was prevented mechanically, by an unidentified cause, from responding to the command given by the levers, which govern the setting of the engine," the commission said. "This resulted in an asymmetry of throttle power."

With power to its left engine reduced as programmed in the move from takeoff to climb settings but full takeoff still coming from the right engine, the Airbus slewed to the left and dived at 80 degrees into the ground, the commission said.

All 60 passengers and crew — 32 of them Belgian — of the "Romanian" Airbus A310 died when the flight crashed on March 31 after takeoff from Bucharest's Otopeni Airport.

even after the storms. "They just talk of people's welfare but don't mean it," she said. The strikes are part of a continuing series by the opposition in its attempts to force Mrs. Khaleda to quit and call early elections.

Nine people died in a storm Sunday which battered the southern district of Madaripur, south of Dhaka, police said. Nearly 100 people were injured.

Ten died when storms hit the coastal area of Cox's Bazar and the suburbs of Chittagong port city Saturday.

Ramos sanctions envoys; urges Singapore to reopen probe into maid's hanging

MANILA (AFP)

President Fidel Ramos Monday suspended an ambassador and fired another for allegedly failing to help Flor Contemplacion, the Filipina maid executed in Singapore last month, and said he would ask Singapore to reopen her case.

He added that he would decide, at a cabinet meeting later Monday, on the future of two cabinet members including Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo — who have also been accused of neglecting Contemplacion's fate.

But he stopped short of carrying out an earlier threat to sever ties with Singapore if a special investigative panel he set up found Contemplacion to have been wrongfully hanged.

Mr. Ramos, speaking at a nationally televised news conference, suspended the ambassador to Singapore, Alicia Ramos (no relation), along with seven other Singapore-based diplomats for "neglect of duty, inefficiency and incompetence in the performance of official functions."

He also accepted the resignation of Alicia Ramos' predecessor in Singapore, Francisco Benedicto, a political appointee who is now ambassador to Seoul.

Contemplacion was hanged in Singapore last March 17 for the 1991 murder of Maga and Maga's Singaporean charge, a four-year old

many Filipinos insist she was innocent and was tortured into making a confession. Massive protests have been staged in Manila against Singapore for alleged injustice, and the Ramos government — facing congressional and local elections on May 8 — has also come under fire.

The commission cited the testimony of a Filipino medical-legal investigator, that Maga's remains show she was killed by a powerful man, a finding that apparently contradicted the results of an autopsy in Singapore that led to Contemplacion's conviction.

The commission also virtually accused the wealthy island-state of using torture and drugs to force Contemplacion to admit to her guilt. Singapore has insisted that Contemplacion's confession as well as her autopsy of Maga, show she was guilty and have said that the Filipino medical-legal investigator's findings are flawed.

Mr. Ramos said if another autopsy by the Singaporean experts still conflicted with the Philippines' findings, he would seek to have another autopsy conducted by a third party.

Alicia Ramos and the other diplomats were recalled to Manila last month when the furore over Contemplacion broke out, resulting in the downgrading of ties between Singapore and the Philippines.

U.N. general protests to Serbs over shelling of Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — NATO jets roared over Sarajevo and the United Nations commander protested to the Bosnian Serbs Monday after they blasted Sarajevo with mortar fire, killing and injuring civilians.

"It does seem that the Bosnian Serbs are not looking for military targets and are in a cowardly fashion trying to harass the people of this city," said U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko. "I have to admit that yesterday the U.N. failed to deter an attack on the city."

Doctors at the city's Kosevo Hospital said three people were killed, including a 15-year-old girl, and at least seven were injured, when 12 mortar rounds hit Sarajevo Sunday.

In a statement, the U.N. commander in Bosnia, Lieutenant General Rupert Smith, said he had issued a formal protest to the Bosnian Serb leadership and ordered NATO jets to fly over the city marking targets for possible retaliatory air strikes.

NATO planes flew across the night skies after the third Serb attack on the city in as many days but U.N. officials said the mortar firing point was too close to houses for them to ask the jets to strike.

"After an assessment it was in the opinion of this command that there could be civilian casualties if the weapon was engaged," said Mr. Ivanko.

Mr. Ivanko said Mr. Smith had reminded the Bosnian Serb leadership that he could order air strikes against targets other than the actual firing point if he felt it warranted.

U.N. commanders have become increasingly reluctant to use their powers to order the bombing of Bosnian Serb forces attacking Muslim civilians areas, fearful of peacekeepers being taken hostage and suffering reprisals.

Bosnian Serb attacks on U.N.-declared "safe areas" like Sarajevo have increased dramatically in the last weeks in the wake of a twin-pronged Bosnian government army offensive that blew apart a four-month truce and won strategic ground.

British Prime Minister John Major called on the government and the Bosnian Serbs to respect the crumbling ceasefire, due to expire in three weeks and which major power peace negotiators want both sides to extend.

"The parties to the Bosnian conflict should head this appeal," Mr. Major said in London. "They are quite literally playing with fire. If they rekindle all-out war, I do not believe that any of the participants will be able to make lasting gains."

Officials from the contact group — Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States — are due in Balkan capitals to push for a truce extension and offer Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic a suspension of sanctions on Belgrade in return for recognising Bosnia and Croatia.

The contact group believes Mr. Milosevic's recognition of his neighbours independence will further isolate the Bosnian Serbs and pressure them to accept a peace plan dividing Bosnia roughly in half that they have steadfastly refused.

The Bosnian government says it must keep up military pressure on the Serbs to force them to trade some of the 70 per cent of the country they hold as part of a peace deal.

Despite international appeals fighting has not stopped. The U.N. said 60 shells a minute were fired in an artillery attack launched in central Bosnia Monday morning. It did not say which side was responsible.

Two children were killed Monday when shells slammed into their secondary school in government-held Tesanj, in the north of the country, a U.N. Protection Force spokesman said here.

A total of 71 detonations — the U.N.'s usual terminology for shelling — were recorded a few kilometres (miles) northwest of Tesanj, near Jelah. And more than 350 were recorded further to the southeast, Shishayev said.

In northeast Bosnia, fighting continued in the Majevica Hills area for control of the Stolica peak, where Serb forces, defending a television and communication relay tower, have been fighting off government attacks for the past three weeks.

Serb forces opened fire with heavy machine guns at a Pakistani U.N. resupply convoy, near Ribnica, also in the north of the country, Monday morning, but there were no injuries, the spokesman said. Fire was returned.

Meanwhile, a Polish U.N. soldier was shot dead Monday after the Croatian army fired on a U.N. observation post along a demarcation line between Croatia forces and Croatian Serb fighters, a U.N. spokesman in Zagreb reported.

The unidentified soldier was shot near Vojnovac in the northern sector of a demarcation zone set up by the U.N. in territory held by the separatist Croatian Serbs, spokesman Christopher Guinness said.

He said he thought it was the first time a "blue helmet," a term used to describe U.N. soldiers, had been killed by the Croatian army. An inquiry was underway, he added.

The Krajina region is a disputed area covering a quarter of Croatia where Croatian Serbs have declared a self-styled Serb Republic of Krajina.

Elsewhere Serbs fired on Belgian U.N. troops in northeastern Croatia to force them to abandon an observation point on its border with Serbia-Montenegro, Mr. Guinness said.

U.S. senator: S. Korean reactors non-negotiable

SEOUL (AFP)

A U.S. senator warned North Korea Monday that it had no choice but to take South Korean reactors under its accord with Washington, adding that the deal was off if Pyongyang restarted a frozen nuclear facility.

Senior U.S. Senator Charles Robb issued the warning at a news conference after the headline Communist state in the North cancelled his scheduled visit there at the last minute.

South Korean monitors meanwhile reported a call for army readiness in Pyongyang as tensions over the stalled nuclear accord rose again ahead of the resumption of U.S.-North Korean negotiations on Wednesday in Berlin.

Under the October 1994 U.S.-North Korean agreement in Geneva, Pyongyang is to receive two new 1,000-megawatt reactors in exchange for scrapping a nuclear weapons programme, and ties with the United States would be gradually normalised.

Sen. Robb, a senior member of the U.S. Senate foreign relations, armed services and intelligence committees, said North Korea should recognise that the reactors "must and will come from South Korea."

"There was no ambiguity during the course of the negotiations as to who will furnish the reactors and how it would be paid for," Sen. Robb said.

But North Korea Saturday flatly refused to take South Korean reactors, and Seoul responded Sunday by saying the negotiations would be aborted if Pyongyang again rejected the offer in Berlin.

Sen. Robb dismissed the possibility that other countries could lead the project to appease North Korea, saying Seoul must be the "primary contractor."

He said he was about to visit North Korea from here as part of an Asia-Pacific swing, but the trip was cancelled at the last minute.

U.N. resumes returning Rwandan refugees to camps

NAIROBI (R) — The U.N. refugee agency Monday resumed an operation to return tens of thousands of Rwandan refugees in Burundi to camps they abandoned in fear of ethnic attacks nearly two weeks ago.

The operation to truck the refugees back to their camps was suspended Saturday after a grenade attack on a U.N. convoy, the agency's spokesman in Burundi, Paul Stromberg, told Reuters.

Mr. Stromberg, in a telephone interview, said eight Rwandan Hutu refugees were injured in the attack by the ethnically volatile Ngizi province.

"One grenade bounced into the back of the truck wounding eight, five of them seriously," Mr. Stromberg said. "They are all in a stable condition, but one woman is at risk of losing her leg."

In Nairobi, UNHCR spokesman Peter Kessler said some 4,600 out of over 40,000 refugees who fled the camps had been transported back to camps by Saturday. He said slightly over 5,000 would be moved back to camps daily as of Monday.

"We hope to move slightly over 5,000 refugees a day back to the camps. This movement is a result of an agreement with the government of Burundi for them to boost security around the camps," Mr. Kessler said.

The refugee saga erupted on March 28 when the Rwandans, who fled genocide and civil war in their homeland last year, emptied camps in Burundi and headed for neighbouring Tanzania following an upsurge of ethnic violence in Burundi between majority Hutus and minority Tutsis.

But their journey was cut short after Tanzania, already bursting with 750,000 refugees who fled ethnic strife in Rwanda last year and past violence in Burundi, slammed shut its border to stop them from entering.

The East African nation has since turned down appeals from the United Nations, aid agencies and neighbouring countries to reopen the border.

Former Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai dies

NEW DELHI (AP)

Former Prime Minister Morarji Desai, who helped embed a multiparty system in the world's largest democracy, died Monday. He was 99.

Mr. Desai, who had been hospitalised for several weeks and recently undergone brain surgery, died at Jaslok Hospital in Bombay, two news agencies reported.

Mr. Desai was India's prime minister from 1977 to 1979, a brief interlude in the 17-year leadership of Indira Gandhi and the only time in the nation's first 42 years that her Congress Party was out of government.

He was a loyal follower of Congress — the engine that had powered India to sovereignty — until he joined the party dissenters against Mrs. Gandhi's rule in 1969.

Born Feb. 29, 1896 in the western state of Gujarat, Mr. Desai was a contemporary of Mohandas K. Gandhi, the apostle of nonviolence who led the fight to free India from British colonial rule.

Like many in that generation, Mr. Desai was frequently jailed by the British, serving eight prison sentences.

After India won nationhood in 1947, he was rewarded by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru with several important cabinet posts.

When Nehru died in 1964, Mr. Desai was a strong contender for the party's leadership. But he was edged out by Congress power brokers who chose the unknown Lal Bahadur Shastri and, when Shastri died in office, picked Mrs. Gandhi, who was Nehru's daughter.

Mr. Desai served as deputy prime minister and finance minister for three years under Mrs. Gandhi until the Congress split. He joined with other anti-Gandhi forces to form the Janata (People's) Party.

In 1975, Mrs. Gandhi imposed emergency rule that lasted 21 months, imprisoning Mr. Desai and other political enemies without trial. When the emergency was lifted and elections were held in 1977, the Janata Party was swept into power as the head of a motley coalition united only in their enmity for Mrs. Gandhi.

Political defections inspired by Congress and factional squabbles within the Janata Party toppled his government 2½ years later. A

break through to the border post along the only road, heavily damaged and mined by rebels.

TASS said the rebels were forced to retreat, leaving nine dead fighters behind.

There was no immediate reaction from Mr. Yeltsin, who is on vacation in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev made clear in comments reported by Interfax that Moscow could beef up its forces on the border.

factious of the Janata Party formed another government that lasted only six months, but Mr. Desai, then 83 went into retirement in Bombay.

Younger generations may have known him as an elder statesman. But he also was widely known for his personal habits to which he attributed his longevity: He became celibate at age 32 after the birth of his fourth child and he kept a regular diet of fruit, milk and his own urine.

He told a television network in the United States during a visit in 1978 that he did not consider auto-urine therapy a strange practice.

"In America now you are preparing extracts from it for heart trouble... so you drink other people's urine, but not your own," he said.

Political defections inspired by Congress and factional squabbles within the Janata Party toppled his government 2½ years later. A

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Week of the treaty

ON TOP of all its divisions the Arab World appears to be further divided on the extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which is scheduled for consideration in New York next week. Some Arab capitals have obviously decided to support the indefinite extension of the treaty even though the Arab foreign ministers who met in Cairo last month rejected "the fait accompli which holds all the Middle East countries, except Israel, to comply with the non-proliferation regime." Egypt and Syria in particular continue to hold out against the chorus of Arab and non-Arab countries supporting the open-ended extension.

Israel is characteristically non-committal pending the realisation of a full and comprehensive regional peace comprising Iran, Iraq and Libya. Cairo, however, continues to seek some assurances that Israel will sign the treaty at a certain stage, at least before Egypt can agree to the proposed extension.

There are several ways to bridge the gap between the conflicting positions. One simple formula is to support a limited extension pending the resolution of the outstanding grievances and anxieties of the two camps. Another is to accelerate the ongoing process to overhaul the U.N. Security Council so that assurances to non-nuclear states against threats from nuclear powers, including the existing permanent members of the Council, could become more solid and credible. The Security Council's current composition needs to be made more representative of the expanding international community in order to allay the anxieties of the smaller countries about the current hegemony of its five permanent members.

But above all, from the Arab point of view, Israel must be forthcoming on its readiness to adhere to the treaty's objectives and terms. Continued Israeli monopoly over mass-destruction weapons can only be destabilising the regional peace and security.

From the international perspective, the known nuclear powers must fulfill their end of the bargain by negotiating in earnest nuclear disarmament. Instead of decreasing the atomic threat, the nuclear countries have in fact done the opposite by increasing it. Judging by the rising numbers of nuclear bombs in the possession of these countries, the non-nuclear states have all the reason to question the sincerity of the haves in making the world free of atomic bombs. The bave-nots cannot go on being taken for granted on this issue. Before they can put their seal of approval on any extension of the NPT, the nuclear powers have to show more readiness to live up to their commitments made under the expiring treaty.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily said in its editorial Monday that Sunday's explosions in Gaza, which killed seven Israelis and wounded many others, affirmed what all observers agreed upon on the eve of the signing of the Oslo agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians. It is that the Jewish settlements in occupied Palestinian lands are time bombs that can destroy the fragile ground on which this agreement was based. It said what happened near the two Israeli settlements stresses the fact that peace and settlements cannot co-exist at all. It said if Israel continues to ignore this fact it would for sure undermine the peace process. It said these series of violence incidents take place amidst feelings of disparagement resulting from the stalled implementation of the self-rule agreement, combined with poverty and unemployment caused by the policies of siege and closures. It said obstacles placed in the way of implementing the declaration of principles do not serve any of the parties participating in the peace process. The paper called on the government of Israel to learn from these incidents and to take steps to speed up the negotiations process in order to move to the second phase of the self-rule plan.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i, Tareq Masarweh, on Monday dealt with last week's incidents at the University of Jordan, which left scores of students injured. The writer said these battles between students should make the Jordanian people recognise the social diseases which include tribalism, sectarianism and other kinds of discrimination. He said the state of turmoil which accompanied this quarrel cannot be concealed by the covers of civilisation that the people are trying to believe. He said the people should admit that these social illnesses exist in universities, government departments, associations and various kinds of elections.

The View from Fourth Circle

6 years after April 1989: whither media liberalisation?

By Rami G. Khouri

JORDAN has been undergoing a process of political liberalisation and democratisation since 1989 that is slowly giving birth to a new political culture, characterised by greater pluralism, freedom of political organisation in the form of political parties, and more freedom of expression. One of the most obvious and important sectors where this is taking place is in the media, whose condition today in Jordan speaks much about the realities of our political culture and identity exactly six years after the demonstrations in April 1989 that sparked our modern political liberalisation.

The context in which this takes place is crucial to a complete understanding of the political transformation underway in Jordan and other Arab countries. The single most important and widespread phenomenon that defines the Arab world today is a very gradual but real devolution of power away from the state and the central government, because of several reasons:

A) Most Arab states have steadily lost credibility in recent decades, due to their failure to offer credible ideological policies that respond to their people's political/emotional needs, and, with only a few exceptions, their parallel failure to adequately meet the socio-economic and material needs of the majority of their people;

B) This general decline in credibility, combined with the severe fiscal pressures that plague all Arab governments (including the oil producers), means that most Arab states are unable to maintain their total control of economic, political and information power.

As Arab central governments are forced to shed their old autocratic ways, they are finding that information is one of the areas where the private sector is quickly filling the void left by the slow retreat of the government's thought control colonels. Within this context, we can identify several positive and negative trends that have occurred in Jordan since 1989.

The positive trends are headed by the continued liberalisation of political culture as a whole, with pluralism and participatory governance continuing to sink roots into the modern structures of statehood and urban society. Competition from domestic and international quarters will force the established Jordanian media to respond to the new realities of a marketplace of ideas and entertainment, but it is too early to tell whether such competition will improve or worsen our national media.

The political party and sensational commercial weekly newspapers have altered the landscape of political journalism, mainly by expanding the boundaries of what the political opposition can express in public without fear of being closed down. (They still have to deal with other forms of administrative, legal and regulatory controls by the central government, but closure purely for expressing unconventional views is not a main issue any more).

The profitability and wealth of some of the private press,

alongside the access to official technical assistance by the state-owned media, are positive signs: they could permit the private press to assert their independence from government control, and they could prompt the private and state media to invest in the training of their personnel in order to raise standards. Another very positive trend has been the willingness of the private and state media to address sensitive issues that were once taboo, including allegations of corruption, issues of human rights, child abuse, gender violence, and the suffering of the absolute poor.

Finally, the general downgrading of the political role of the Ministry of Information in the last few years is a most constructive move. Press issues are mostly handled today on a technical level by the Press and Publications Department. Even though some of the department's moves are politically controversial (i.e. suspending newspapers for technical lapses or taking private newspapers to court) the positive fact today is that most of the confrontations between the government and the private press are being waged on a public battleground defined by laws and regulations. This is a great advancement on the bad old days when writers were banned or newspapers closed due to the whim or ire of a single minister, often without legal recourse.

Among the negative factors that do not augur well for serious liberalisation of the media or their playing a greater role in democratisation, the most important one is cultural. Ours is predominantly a tribal, patriarchal, hierarchical, and dependent society, in which most people instinctively acquiesce in the decisions made on their behalf by those at the top of the hierarchy — whether the political leadership of the country, or the head of a tribe, clan or ethnic/religious group, the family, or the village. Our culture values consensus-building based on patriarchal guidance rather than majority votes based on public debate.

When the liberalisation process started in April 1989, the majority of Jordanians were not calling for democracy; they mainly wanted reasonably priced milk and fuel, and a less oppressive or coercive attitude by the central government to the needs and rights of ordinary citizens. I believe the majority of Jordanians would be pleased to have the government continue to provide them with basic needs, such as jobs, reasonably priced food, and an artificially overvalued dinar, if the state also allowed people a reasonable degree of personal freedom of thought, expression and association. But this reliance on the state to provide for all is no longer possible, because of the inability of the state to maintain its absolute, hegemonic control of political ideology, economic forces, cultural expression and intellectual ideas. The days of absolutism have passed. We now live through an exciting era in which we are trying to formulate a new, more satisfying and sustainable balance between the power of the state and the rights of indi-

viduals. Given the importance of tribalism and its enduring relevance to the socio-economic wellbeing of most Jordanians, we could expect to see more liberalisation of the media and the economy, for instance, without much more democratisation.

Another negative is the strict adherence to the government policy line that characterises the state-owned media and the leading private newspapers. These do not adequately reflect the full spectrum or the total vitality of cultural and ideological views in Jordan. The mainstream media in Jordan does not accurately reflect the totality of Jordan and its people.

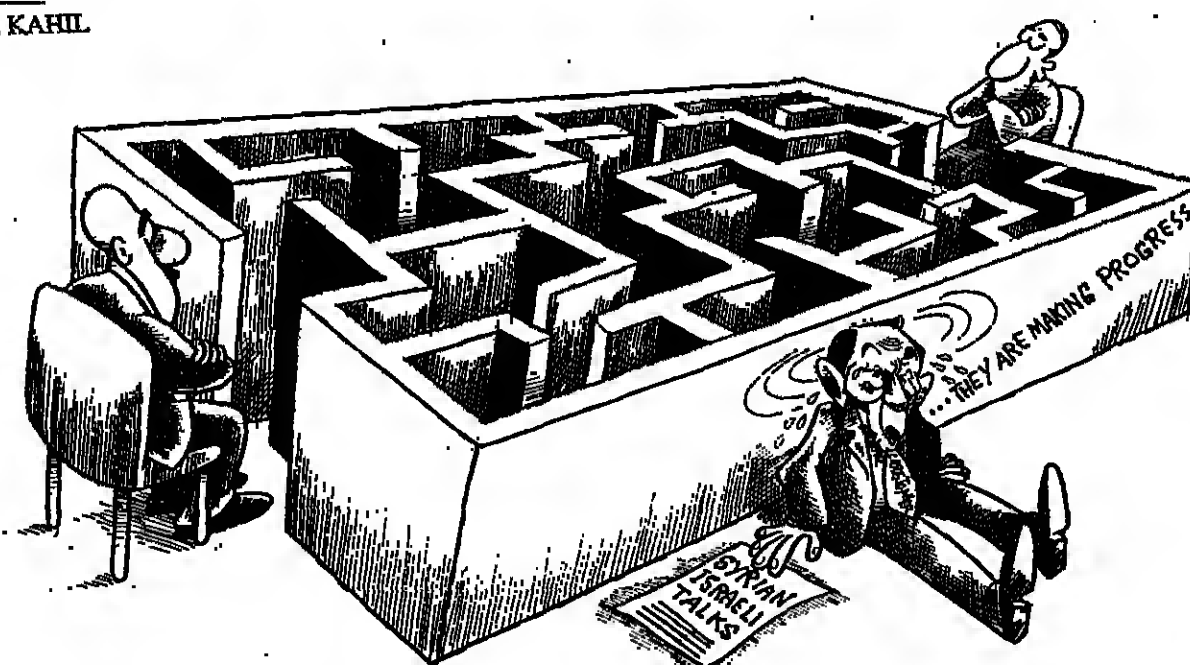
The low credibility and conceptual poverty of the rightist and leftist opposition in Jordan are a big problem: this hampers the expansion of the opposition press into anything more than a handout for the already converted. A related constraint is the limited nature of our democracy, given the many limitations on the effective power of the elected Lower House of Parliament, which most Jordanians seem to find acceptable — another indication of the powerful compromises that have to be struck for a happy marriage between ancient Arab tribal culture and modern, Western-style democratic systems.

A serious structural drag on the future development of the media is the generally low level of professional competence of many journalists, combined with the continued unwillingness or even fear of most Jordanians to speak out critically in public. The latter is partly a cultural trait that reflects our tribal penchant for consensus, and partly a hangover from the past when people did not have the opportunity to speak out independently and critically, or were afraid that doing so would incur the retributive wrath of the state.

A general assessment of the media in Jordan today reveals three broad trends: the mainstream private media stays very close to the government policy line and is driven heavily by the dictates of making money, though it has expanded access to its pages by opposition viewpoints; the sensational and political party opposition weeklies offer a combination of entertainment and confrontation that provide considerable merriment but have little impact on public policy formulation; and the state-owned media continue to institute superficial changes that have given them new forms, without significantly changing the substance of their contents: this threatens to drive them to irrelevance or to merely a diversionary role, due to the public's growing access to other sources of domestic and international media.

Beneath this balance sheet of positive and negative developments in our media is the deeper issue of political change in Jordan, which, in the final analysis, will be determined mainly by cultural factors. The fact that gradual change is underway, and comprises both pluses and minuses, strikes me as rather healthy. Stay tuned.

M. KAHIL



Genocide: When will we ever learn?

By Boutros Ghali

UNITED NATIONS. New York — The world has yet to learn the lesson. On April 6, 1994, an aircraft carrying the presidents of Burundi and Rwanda crashed at Kigali airport. There were no survivors. Widespread killing ensued as Rwanda descended into chaos. Today, one year later, the way has not yet been found to deal with the evil perpetrated in Rwanda.

Not long ago the world thought it could recognise and stop genocide if it happened. "Never again" was the watchword. But words were not enough. Genocide has come again.

In Cambodia, more than a million people were the victims of genocide. The "reason" was ideological. But the very word "reason" is impermissible in the case of such a crime.

In the former Yugoslavia, ancient hatreds, suppressed in the cold war, burst forth. But history is not the culprit. Rape, torture, murder and the lust for land are contemporary evils. In Somalia, rival warlords deliberately kept food aid away from the starving and the sick. A third of a million people died before the world intervened. In Rwanda, half a million people were killed. Some have used the word "tribal" in explanation. But what happened was genocide — and no explanation for genocide is acceptable.

We have at our disposal the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, approved by the General

Assembly in 1948. One hundred seventeen states are parties to this agreement. The convention is universal in its jurisdiction, permanent in its applicability, and unmistakable in the responsibility upon contracting parties.

The convention states that "genocide is a crime under international law, contrary to the spirit and aims of the United Nations and condemned by the civilised world," and that "in order to liberate mankind from such an odious scourge, international co-operation is required." The convention makes it clear that traditional reasons for denying jurisdiction — such as asserting the act to be "political" or "internal" — may not be asserted in the case of genocide.

Why, then, is genocide happening again? International machinery cannot work on its own. Its effectiveness depends upon the willingness and determination of member states to employ their political, human and financial resources to implement it.

The standard excuse for failing to act against genocide is, "We did not know." Genocide does not happen spontaneously. Genocide is planned and perpetrated by cynical leaders who believe they can get away with it — and profit from it. In most cases there are abundant danger signs long before the killing begins.

In Rwanda, the character and the extent of the killing were clear. Yet the response of the international community was found wanting. Several countries

withdrew their contingents from the U.N. Assistance Mission to Rwanda, or Unamir. The Security Council had little choice but to reduce Unamir to the minimum level. As genocide ensued, the Security Council endorsed additional troops for Unamir, but it proved impossible to obtain those troops. Two million Rwandans fled to Zaire and Tanzania. Most are still in makeshift camps.

Today, in neighbouring Burundi, we may face another genocide. On March 27, the president of Burundi warned that his country was on the brink of genocide after a week of bloody ethnic violence. I have approved, from discretionary funds, an expansion of the staff of my special representative to Burundi, and the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights is strengthening the commission's presence there.

I call upon the people of Burundi to exercise wisdom and restraint. I call upon the international community to support peace efforts in the region in every way possible. Genocide is a test before us. Phrases like "world order," "international cooperation" and "global community" can have no meaning until we meet the test.

How can genocide be stopped at an early point? We cannot be content to see international intervention only when the worst is over. What will happen after intervention? Action against genocide may require a commitment to "nation-building." When

an international presence is withdrawn, what is to prevent a resumption of killing? Some form of continuing presence must be part of any exit strategy.

We have not yet agreed on answers to these questions. Perhaps the answers can only be found through experience. But questions must not become excuses for inaction.

There are signs of progress. In 1993, the U.N. Security Council created an international tribunal for war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia. This is the first such tribunal to be established not by the victors in war but by the entire international community, acting through the United Nations.

The existence of this tribunal prompted the government of Rwanda to request in August the creation of a similar tribunal to prosecute persons alleged to have committed genocide in Rwanda. The Security Council decided to establish such a tribunal. The two tribunals are institutionally linked. They share a common appeals chamber and a common prosecutor.

This momentum must not be lost. The world's nations must not say that the challenge is too remote, or too dangerous, or that it fails to meet the criteria for action. It may seem better not to know. It may seem safer not to act. It may seem easier to look away. But these are the acts of complicity. Common humanity places a duty upon us all, a duty we must fulfill.

International Herald Tribune

LETTERS

The Israeli tourism threat

To the Editor:

TOURISM IN Jordan based on the country's rich national heritage, the beauty of its landscape, flora and fauna. Serious tourists are attracted to these specific aspects of Jordan and, when visiting the country, they expect to find intact in order to truly enjoy what one might consider as a "pure pleasure" to the naked eye.

Jordan is a blessed country in the quantity of wild flowers it contains, as you could easily find 2300 different types of wild flowers. Nature lovers consider it heaven on Earth.

Unfortunately, Jordan's treasures are seriously endangered by the new tourists from the other side of the river.

Rare flowers, as the black iris, have suddenly vanished from around the Iraq Al Amir and Ajloun areas. Israeli tourists are simply digging up these flowers and transporting them to the other side of the river upon their return from a short visit to our country.

On the archaeological level, the situation is even more pessimistic. The Israelis are very much interested in purchasing valuable items at a very low cost. A black market was started by them for these items especially in the southern part of Jordan.

An example of this, would be the digging of old tombs by local poor peasants in Al Niq area in Ghor Al Safi. The peasants search desperately for pottery and antiques which could bring them easy money from these new tourists.

This matter is generating a lot of worry and pain for the Department of Antiquities, the Friends of Archaeology in Jordan and all lovers of our national heritage.

This situation must stop immediately. The Israeli tourists must be warned against plundering archaeological sites and destroying Jordan's flora. The Jordanian laws impose solid fines and firm jail sentences on violators. This should as well be implemented on destructive tourists.

If this solution proves to be ineffective, Jordan would be better off without any Israeli tourists. Our national heritage comes first and it is our duty to protect it.

Ghazi Saadi, board member, Friends of Archaeology, chairman, The National Heritage Committee of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, Amman.

Ghazi Saadi, Amman.

Balladur's statement on Jerusalem offensive

To the Editor:

WITH MUCH rage, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, along with all Jerusalem organisations in Amman, condemn the recent statement delivered by French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur on the issue of Jerusalem. He indicates that "Jerusalem belongs to Jews a bit more than it does to the others." Pointing out the gravity of such statement and the necessity to stop it, we stress that we, Arabs and Muslims, do not accept abusing the status of Jerusalem taken as a winning card and a subject to bid for the votes. Settling problems related to this issue to be negotiated at final peace talks does not, necessarily, require taking the Israeli side. However, Mr. Balladur did so when he said that "there would be no problem moving France's embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem."

The guilt complex suffered by the French prime minister does not give him privilege to determine the fate of Jerusalem, even if it was meant to be elections propaganda — an attempt to win 700 thousand Jewish votes in France to facilitate his presidential aspiration.

This statement meets with the Jewish claims as well as the deceptive Zionist propaganda — celebrating 3000 years since King David's declaration of Jerusalem as capital for the Jews. Yet, these claims were proven fake by scholars and historians.

We regard Mr. Balladur's statement an impairment that violates the international unanimity as well as the U.N. Security Council resolutions. Moreover, this attitude is at variance with the French foreign policy. Hence, we pass our protest to all officials at the French embassy. And we call upon all institutions, organisations and groups to take an effective step to stop such statements that question our right as Muslims and Arabs on Jerusalem.

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee's Middle East Regional Office, and Jerusalem organisations, Amman.

Rebels accus
violating

Mixed blessings of Rwandan aid

One year after the killing in Rwanda, John Vidal asks whether current relief efforts are merely prolonging the agony

FRANCOISE COLLECTS her beans and grain courtesy of the International Red Cross and heads down "Oxfam Road." She scrambles a quarter mile through a sea of 70,000 tents to reach home in exile — a plastic-covered construction pitched on volcanic ground in Kibeho camp, 20 miles over the Rwandan border into Zaire.

There she divides up what the world has given her today — not much because U.N. rations have been halved since the West ran out of money and a convoy of food trucks has just been hijacked near the border. The grain she will cook later, but she'll sell the beans in the camp's street market because she needs to buy fuelwood.

She'll call in on a western-run clinic on her way there, complaining of sleeplessness and depression, and get some fancy Swiss pills which she can sell on to the "Pharmacie de l'Avenir," set up by a Rwandan businessman. If she passes one of the church organisations she might be given some 20-year-old U.S. army biscuits or Japanese sardines. If she misses these she could buy them in the market, along with goodwill T-shirts and sweaters donated by the British, Chinese bicycles, American cuddly toys and Japanese shoes.

She could go to another camp and pray for a miracle with U.S. evangelist Pat Robertson's team of Operation Blessed Missionaries. God — and Pat — may give her a bible, a blanket and some paracetamol as she gets on her knees. Her moral well-being could equally be looked after by the Moonies, the Adventists or orange-robed Buddhists.

And if Francoise's children feel traumatised, she can pick and choose psychiatric help. There are European and U.S. teachers, psychologists, samaritans, counsellors and social workers in the camp, too.

Yet Francoise readily confesses that she's the wife of a murderer who was employed by a U.S. charity last year. "Yes, he killed," she says. "But it was a war. There were killings on both sides." She will not say which group he worked for or how far he was involved

in the atrocities that saw up to one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus butchered. "Anyway, the wazungu (white men, literally 'those who move around') left," she says. "Everything has gone. Now we have nothing."

Should the West be feeding and providing for Francoise, employing her killer husband and feeding her seven children?

Humanitarian aid from the U.N., governments, charities and churches is touted as noble, heroic and selfless. It is the politically acceptable face of overseas aid now that long-term development projects are frowned upon. And when the British government, the EU or Bonn gives Oxfam or others around \$5 million to lay 100 miles of water pipelines and put in tanks, latrines and showers to provide for 200,000 emaciated, sick and wounded people, when Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) or Merlin set up field hospitals to treat cholera, or the International Red Cross is seen feeding the starving, then emergency aid seems a Good Thing.

But the noble image is tarnished when emergency aid that the public thinks is going to the most vulnerable is disbursed also to the perpetrators of genocide. The U.N. believes that more than \$700 million has so far been spent on the Hutu refugees, including the killers, and less than \$300 million has been provided for their victims or rehabilitating Rwanda itself.

The Rwanda crisis has become an identity crisis for Western aid, and is changing how we "give." What was called the "mother of relief efforts" last June, is increasingly seen — but seldom expressed — by charities, the U.N. and individuals as a three-ring circus of financial self-interest, political abuse and incompetence.

One accusation, levelled mainly by human rights workers and the Rwandan government, is that having failed to stop the genocide when they could see it coming, and having ignored it when it was happening under their noses last year, the world community is now providing for the guilty, further destabilising Rwanda and the region.



TEARS OF DESPAIR: A small Rwandan child cries while sitting in a refugee camp about 50 km from the Rwandan capital, Kigali (AFP photo)

"Because they build schools and hospitals they say we should forget," the Rwandan vice-president and minister for defence, Major-General Paul Kagame, said recently. "They (the international community) are hypocrites... they say if you do not do that, you will not have money... They brought planes and soldiers to evacuate their own people and left us people they say being massacred."

The U.N. is embarrassed: "We know we are feeding the killers, as well as the innocent," says Nicky Oahrendorf, a senior administrator for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees

based in Goma, Zaire, where more than one million people fled last June. "Yes, the international effort has largely gone into providing for those who fled. It has kept alive a lot of people who would normally fall out of the 1951 Convention of the Rights of Refugees... There are people in these camps who should be of no concern to us."

A U.N. World Food Programme executive agrees, off the record: "The refugees — that includes the killers — have been much better provided for than their victims... They are often better off in the camps than the communi-

ties into which they come. We know that food goes astray... reaching even the former army, and that the numbers of refugees are hiked up by the camp leaders so they can get more."

"What can we do?" asks Jaap Vermeulen of Oxfam in Goma. "It used to be clear who we dealt with. Now it isn't. We have to deal with the killers and the innocent and the vulnerable."

Another, related charge is that the international community and some charities and churches are prolonging the conflict, and employing the extremists and killers. "They knowingly

"in the panic to be seen to be providing, most looked the other way, asking no questions of those who queued up to be interpreters, cooks drivers, office-workers or guards. Even when lists of people implicated in the genocide were available, they turned away."

Alarm bells rang for Oxfam last July when Prosper, a senior Rwandan employee who had been running a "non-violence" programme since before the genocide, was alleged to have been complicit in the killings. He asked to be moved to Goma as an Oxfam employee and worked there for another few months. "His contract was not renewed," says a spokesman. "The allegations were impossible to prove." To its knowledge, Oxfam's Rwandan operation is "clean."

Every NGO employs people who have had blood on their hands. "Who can you trust in this situation?" says Mr. Vermeulen. "But the international community put us there. Should we just let people die?"

Some of the larger aid organisations charge that the world community uses Western charities and agencies to front their politics. "Emergency aid has gone 'way beyond its nice little principles,'" says Rachel Kidell-Monote, until last month MSF (Holland) Rwandan country coordinator.

The political vacuum is now being filled by the NGOs. We see clearly the abuse of humanitarian aid by the international community. We look at the U.N. delaying things, using their vetoes and non-tactics and doing nothing about justice and human rights, and we have to start putting ourselves in a political context."

The aid agencies are having to grow up politically. If it was once considered positive to be naive in a crisis, now it isn't.

"Some aid groups are, shall we say, definitely extending the conflict," says Mr. Vermeulen. "We cannot just say that we're not politically involved. It's a new role. It's not easy."

Many NGOs are accused of using crises as prime marketing opportunities, running appeals on the backs of images of starving babies, and at the same time taking U.N. money. "Aid is big, big money, now, worth billions of pounds of a year. Every NGO worth its salt, every church and do-gooder or anyone wanting to get into emergency aid recognised that it had to be in Rwanda."

da," says a UNHCR spokesman. "More than 180 international organisations parachuted in at the height of the crisis. It was chaos in the beginning, sheer madness."

"Far too many came," says Ms. De la Soudière, a point made by the Rwandan government, which is seeking to whittle them down and has expelled two.

Much of the aid given is inappropriate and sometimes useless. German groups came with very sophisticated water and sanitary systems, but have now left and no one knows how to maintain the systems. Development consultants fly in for three days to write plans for the next 10 years. Expensive drugs, never seen before in equatorial Africa, are liberally dispensed without any thought of the consequences. Food is provided with no consideration about how long it takes to cook, leaving refugees with no option but to pillage the land near the camps to gather fuelwood.

And the very presence of the international community of the international community turns local economies upside down, and fuels corruption and inflation. "My rent has gone up 400 per cent," says Apollinaire, a Zairean working for the U.N. in Goma. "I can hardly pay for anything now. I am stopped in the street by the army who demand money. The number of muggings has increased dramatically. Life is much worse now, even though there are good jobs for some."

"The international community pays way over the odds for everything," says another Zairean. "They pay four times the normal wages. It's good work for a few, but it hurts the poorest most. They must throw money at problems."

A final criticism is that the world community is lining its own pockets. Truck drivers employed on contracts by the U.N. can make \$12,000 a month, tax free; 20-year-old U.N. human rights monitors with little or no experience are on more than \$7,000 a month. More senior U.N. personnel earn \$20,000-plus a month, and everyone gets generous per diem allowances and food and board thrown in.

"Sometimes it stinks," says a British engineer. "You can get very depressed about it all. The best and the worst of everything is here. Some real heroes and some real sharks. But you have to keep believing."

The Guardian

U.S. to discuss Jordan's needs

(Continued from page 1)

Ross, who later left for the U.S.

"We think the parties want to see progress made," Mr. Ross said, describing his talks with Syrian and Israeli leaders as intense.

Mr. Ross said that the U.S. was seeking to create a basis in security arrangements on the Golan Heights that will make progress possible.

"We are seeking to create a basis that would make direct meetings between Syrian and Israeli military experts possible," he said. The last round of meeting held between Syrian and Israeli army chiefs in December failed to make headway.

Reports from Syria and Israel indicated that the two sides were deeply divided over their perceptions of security arrangements and confidence-building measures.

According to the reports, Syria wants symmetrical

Iraq demands Turkish pullout

(Continued from page 1)

been ready for that for a long time," he said.

"I believe the stage could be appropriate" for a political solution, he added.

Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller dug in her heels on Monday, defending Turkey's sweep into Iraq ahead of a visit by a U.S. official expected to pressure Ankara to limit its drive against the PKK.

"I know there are people in Europe and elsewhere who do not fully understand the murderous nature of this organisation," Ms. Ciller said in a reference to PKK.

"They do not grasp why, for a strictly limited period, we have had to take our struggle into a narrow strip of Iraqi territory," she told visiting European journalism students, according to a transcript provided by her office.

A U.S. delegation led by Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott was due in Ankara late on Monday amid exasperation in the West over Turkey's vague commitment to end the incursion "soon."

U.S. officials have suggested that Turkey consider a political solution to its Kurdish problem.

The Kurds, who make up a fifth of Turkey's 60 million population, are not allowed to use their language in education or broadcasting.

Turkey has not tolerated discussion of the issue openly, prosecuting more than 100 people for their writings or speeches.

Ms. Ciller said her government was committed to a democratisation programme which would include the gradual lifting of emergency rule in southeast Turkey.

PLO launches crackdown

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin gave his negotiators the go-ahead to resume talks with the PLO in Cairo on arrangements for Palestinian elections and a troop pullback that will allow Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

Mr. Arafat's police chief, Major General Nasr Youssef, said more militants would be rounded up and that some would be put on trial.

Angry Islamic militant leaders raised the spectre of civil war, apparently in an attempt to force Mr. Arafat to back down.

"We will not be the first to start a civil war. But if this scenario (of trials and arrests) is implemented, do you expect people will not defend themselves?" Sheikh Zahar said.

He spoke in an interview at his office at Gaza City's Islamic University.

"He (Arafat) will face a popular uprising against his behaviour toward the holy fighters," he added.

Dr. Zahar said all contacts between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and the Islamic groups broke off last week after he was summoned by Tayeb Abdul Rahim, the chief of staff of Mr. Arafat's office.

"He (Abdul Rahim) threatened me that the military courts can act against anybody... but we will not accept such threats," Dr. Zahar said.

Gen. Youssef, the police chief, estimated that Hamas and Islamic Jihad only had about 150 armed fighters who could easily be disbanded by Mr. Arafat's 9,000 troops, equipped with 7,000 assault rifles and pistols and 120 machine guns.

Asked why this had not happened yet, Gen. Youssef was evasive, saying he received such orders.

Israeli delegation head

Yael Singer said Mr. Rabin decided "not to suspend the negotiations, as it would only give a prize to the terrorists."

But he added: "The Palestinians must take a decision whether they want to live in a society with economic development."

Mr. Singer pointed to Palestinian-Israeli efforts in Washington last week "to bring foreign investors to establish industrial zones in the West Bank and Gaza."

But, he added, no one "in his right mind is going to invest with inhuman acts of terrorism in this area."

He also cast doubt that democratic elections could take place in an atmosphere of "terrorism."

A member of the Palestinian delegation, Hassan Asfour, said that "the peace accord cannot remain fragile to the point that it is thrown into doubt by each operation."

However, the bombings on Sunday risked once again delaying implementation of the second stage of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank, originally set for July 1994.

Both sides have set a July 1 deadline for agreement on redeploying Israeli troops from the West Bank and conducting elections for a self-rule council.

"Perhaps this attack will lead to Israel refusing to respect the date because it is always looking for pretexts to slip away," Mr. Asfour said.

He added that these attacks "do not serve the interests of the Palestinian people."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the killings made meeting the deadline "much more difficult."

Mr. Arafat's spokesman slammed the warning, accusing Israel of using the Gaza bombings as a pretext to hold up the peace process.

"We are surprised at the statements issued by the foreign ministry and attributed to Mr. Shimon Peres," said the spokesman, Nabil Abu Rudeina.

"Such statements do not serve the peace process and raise doubt about Israel's intentions as it looks for excuses not to implement the agreement," he said.

"Speeding up the Israeli-Palestinian agreement is the only guarantee, and the quickest way to assure security and peace and justice, and to prevent the enemies of peace on both sides," Mr. Abu Rudeina added.

Mr. Arafat told Mr. Rabin on Sunday he was "deeply upset" about the bombings.

U.S. President Bill Clinton on Sunday condemned the attacks in Gaza and vowed that those who are trying to use violence to kill Middle East peace efforts "will not succeed."

Mr. Clinton was addressing members of the Jewish Federation Council.

The White House said three Americans were injured in the attacks, one seriously. The individuals were not identified.

"Once more the enemies of peace have sought to abuse the opportunity peace presents to kill it, to kill hope, to kill all possibility of a normal life for the people of Israel, for the Palestinians... and for people throughout the Middle East," Mr. Clinton said.

"As we give our sympathies to those who have suffered and died and their families, let us stiffen our resolve to say to those who seek to abuse human life so that they can continue to kill and continue to keep peace from people who want it: you will not succeed. You must not succeed," he said.

In Tunis, a senior PLO official called for U.N. forces to be sent into the West Bank

and Gaza Strip.

Fouad Kaddoumi, head of the organisation's political department, asked Russia and the United States, as co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process, to make urgent representations to the United Nations to send in troops.

He said "urgent and audacious" measures were needed to preserve the peace process and achieve its objectives after Sunday's bombings.

Mr. Kaddoumi urged the United States to persuade Israel to fix a timetable for withdrawing its troops from the Gaza Strip and West Bank within a month and hand over security control to a U.N. force to help supervise preparations for Palestinian elections.

The PLO official also urged Israel to move Jewish settlers outside the Gaza Strip.

Islamic Jihad activist Sami Ali Al Jidi, 28, was sentenced for trying to recruit children aged between 10 and 15 to become suicide bombers, a statement from the self-rule court said. He has no right of appeal.

He would try to get the children used to the idea of dying by making them lie in empty graves in Gaza, the statement added.

He was arrested two months ago by Palestinian police, but during the intifada he was held by the Israeli army for 18 months.

A builder and married with two children, Jidi was first arrested by Palestinian police when autonomy was launched in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May, but was released 20 days later.

Palestinian prosecutor General Khaled Al Kidra said Monday that Jidi had been able to defend himself against the charges during his trial.

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Iraq ups prices for farmers in quest for grain

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi government, anxious to buy as much grain as possible to maintain food rations in the face of U.N. sanctions, has upped prices offered Iraqi farmers for their wheat and barley by up to three times.

State-run newspapers carried orders from President Saddam Hussein hiking prices offered by the state for locally-produced grain and barley to levels comparable to those on spot markets.

The price of a tonne of first-grade wheat has been raised from 35,000 dinars to 105,000 (about \$88 on the

black market) and that of barley from 20,000 to 60,000 (\$50).

It was the highest rise in prices offered by the government to Iraqi farmers since the U.N. slapped sweeping trade sanctions on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

U.N. experts said weather was good for wheat and barley this year and the increases were yet another government attempt to persuade farmers to ship their produce to state silos.

Harvest collectors in Iraq can fine or jail farmers who fail to sell to the govern-

ment. Farmers withholding their cereal harvest could also be punished by amputation of a foot or hand.

Each Iraqi is entitled to six kilograms of flour a month from the ration system at subsidised prices a fraction of those on the spot market where a kilogramme is worth 400 dinars.

Iraqi civil servants' salaries average just 3,500 dinars a month in Iraq, less than \$3.

Ameer Abdullah, director of the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) in Iraq, said last year's prices were too low to

persuade farmers to sell to the government and many kept the harvest and sold it illegally, despite the risks.

But Mr. Abdullah warned that Iraq was facing dire shortages in insecticides, herbicides, spare parts and certified seeds which could cause a shortfall in yields despite good rains.

Only five of Iraq's fleet of 24 spraying helicopters can fly, and Hungarian pilots will be used to fly over U.N.-defined zones off limits to Iraqi pilots since the end of the Gulf war.

Neither the U.N. nor Iraqi

officials provide figures on last year's harvest but Mr. Abdullah said it was not "encouraging."

The government had to slash rations of flour and other commodities by about 50 per cent last year. Before the Gulf war, Iraq imported 70 per cent of its food needs but with oil sales barred under the U.N. embargo, it now lacks foreign currency.

Shipping agents in Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba, the main entrepot for trade to Iraq, report that direct Iraqi state imports of commodities plummeted last year to a

quarter of their 1993 levels. Iraqi private sector imports were more steady.

Iraq has so far rejected U.N. proposals to allow it to sell some crude oil to buy food and medicine. Baghdad argues that U.N. monitoring of the scheme violates Iraqi sovereignty.

Thomas Ekvali, UNICEF representative in Iraq, said the decrease in rations was affecting the nutrition of pregnant women and mothers breast feeding their babies. Aid workers say there is now widespread malnutrition in Iraq.

Dollar licks wounds after yen's battering

LONDON (Agencies) — The yen's tearaway performance overnight left the dollar grappling above a fresh post-war low on Monday but granted the U.S. currency breathing space against the mark — another victim of the rampant yen.

The dollar made a brief stab above 83 yen in Europe's mid-morning after crashing to 80.15 overnight in Tokyo trading as panicked investors dumped the currency, accelerating its dive.

But the dollar was still more than one yen weaker than its level late on Friday and barely traded by stock markets, dealers said.

"The root of the problem is Japan's structural problems. It's too soon to say the market has bottomed out," said Hidenori Takigawa at Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan in London.

The dollar has lost about 20 per cent since starting the year at 101.45 yen. The root cause of its downfall lies with a hefty trade and budget deficit which forces the United States to borrow heavily abroad.

But heartened by the mark's tumble against the yen, the dollar strained towards the 1.40 mark barrier and wobbled either side of it in morning trading, more than one penny above Friday's close.

Until now the mark has benefited from a weak dollar.

The dollar's dramatic tumble — the latest instalment in a relentless sharp decline this year — sparked demands for concerted dollar support.

French Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery urged the United States to shore up its currency and renewed calls for international policy coordination alongside U.S. action to halt the dollar's decline.

But hopes that the United States would tighten interest rates to boost the dollar faded after economic figures released last week pointed to a slowdown in the booming economy.

A dealer at a Japanese bank said that nothing was in sight to halt the fall of the dollar and that "the market is panicking," and bankers said that the effects might soon destabilise the international debt market.

The Japanese government said it would introduce a "comprehensive" economic stimulus package on Friday to counter the rise of the yen against the dollar, including measures to support medium-sized firms and promote imports.

"We have placed our hopes on the planned package," Tomio Tsutsumi, the vice minister of international trade and industry, told a news conference.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama has ordered ministers to work out the economic measures in an attempt to stop the rise of the yen.

"It is important for ministers concerned to discuss the issue seriously and to show the public that we are taking action," Mr. Murayama told reporters.

Mr. Murayama was to convene a special meeting of cabinet ministers on Tuesday to discuss the measures, they said.

But currency dealers have already expressed scepticism. "Players have acknowledged that no radical steps can be taken by the government," a dealer said Monday. "There is no optimistic view on that."

Economists said that the government had failed to address the root of the problem.

World Bank says trade agreement result disappointing

LONDON (R) — The actual results of the Uruguay Round agreement on world trade liberalisation are disappointing compared with the benefits the rhetoric promised, said a report by the World Bank.

The agreement on agriculture achieved deal by defining rules for agricultural trade, but much less than was hoped in terms of immediate market opening, Alan Winters, division chief for international trade at the World Bank, said.

Among the bars to results matching the words included so-called "dirty tariffication" whereby countries set tariff ceilings far higher than levels which were actually applied.

The prime offenders in this area included the European Union which in wheat, for instance, has selected a tariff ceiling of 155 per cent, which compares with the base 1986-88 average of 103 per cent, the report said.

By contrast, Japan had no dirty tariffs in the product areas examined but the report said this was unsurprising given the staggering level of some Japanese tariffs that

had operated. Its levy on wheat was 651 per cent in the base year and it has bound itself to a new maximum of 240 per cent.

Global welfare benefits from reductions in tariffs in agriculture are estimated at \$48 billion.

But if the specified tariff reductions promised by the accord had taken place the gains would have been more than 2½ times as large, the report said.

The report also concluded that gains in developing countries were likely to be far from evenly distributed and that countries received benefits from the agreement in relation to the amount of merchandise trade liberalisation they were prepared to allow.

"Where only minimal cuts in protection were offered, as in sub-Saharan Africa, the gains were small or negative," the report said.

Mr. Winters said that the Uruguay Round "probably was worthwhile" but the results left a lot to be desired and that the world had a lot more to do in terms of freeing up trade.

WTO creates first trade dispute panel

GENEVA (R) — The World Trade Organisation (WTO) set its trade-dispute machinery in motion for the first time Monday, creating a panel to rule on a row between Venezuela and the United States over U.S. gasoline imports, a spokesman said.

The panel was created at the first meeting of the WTO's dispute settlement body, designed to resolve trade rows more speedily than was the case with GATT, the predecessor of the new trade watchdog.

Venezuela complains that the U.S. gasoline rule, which compels all refiners to reduce emissions from gasoline, violates free-trade accords and discriminates against Venezuelan reformulated gasoline. Venezuela is the largest exporter of gasoline to the United States, which says the new regulation is designed to protect the environment.

A Venezuelan diplomat, Juan Miste, told Monday's meeting that the rule was having an adverse effect on Venezuelan gasoline exports to the U.S. market. The two have failed to resolve the dispute in bilateral talks.

West to be pressed by E. Europe for more money

LONDON (R) — Western finance ministers, struggling to balance their budgets at home, gather in London Monday to face demands from East European nations for more money to help them on the road to capitalism.

The ministers will be among 3,000 officials and bankers attending the annual meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), which has been at pains to cast off its early image of extravagance.

It now takes every opportunity to promote itself as a tightly-run organisation that can do the business for which it was set up for four years ago — to help East Europe's economic transition.

Analysts say all but a few of the region's former communist-run economies still lag far behind the West. But the EBRD at the weekend set an optimistic note for the future, "there is

clear evidence of recovery in almost all countries in eastern Europe and the Baltic states," it said.

"Many of the conditions for sustained growth are now in place... the lion's share of the contribution to growth in eastern Europe now comes from the private sector," the EBRD pointed out.

It is there that the EBRD sees much of its role and banking analysts said it would, with the resources behind it, play an increasingly useful role in the region's transition.

But recession-weary voters in the West would rather see their taxes spent at home and, perhaps most importantly, the mood in the U.S. Congress is unsympathetic. "In the end it all depends on Congress," said one analyst.

At its annual meeting, the EBRD must sound out its owners about raising its capital from next year, as loans are getting close to the limit.

The U.S. Congress has already given warnings about

its reluctance to continue pumping money in the multi-lateral banks and agencies.

But some beneficiary countries wasted little time in pushing for fresh financing to enable the EBRD to expand its lending.

"Russia has become the largest single recipient of EBRD loans," Tatyana Paramonova, acting governor of the Russian Central Bank, told reporters, adding: "We do hope that the volume of financing by the EBRD will increase."

There were also calls for such countries to get their own economies into better shape, especially in the former Soviet Union where confidence among foreign investors is very shaky.

"In order to achieve and sustain growth in the medium term, the countries in the CIS will need to generate high savings and investment," the EBRD said, adding that meant making greater efforts to fight inflation.

Mandela seeks Arab Gulf investment for black business

KUWAIT (R) — South African President Nelson Mandela Sunday called on Gulf investors to enter joint ventures with black businessmen to give the majority a bigger stake in the white-dominated economy.

He added after talks with the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and Kuwait's chamber of commerce and industry that Gulf states' oil wealth and South Africa's mineral riches would translate into profitable trade.

"Big business is by definition white and blacks are

confined to small business. One of the issues we discussed today at the chamber of commerce was how to close this gap by having joint ventures with black business," he told a news conference.

Mr. Mandela, on the second day of a tour of four Gulf states to drum up trade and support for post-apartheid reconstruction, said Kuwaitis had warmly welcomed a briefing he had given on Pretoria's attempt to simplify foreign investment procedures.

"We are going to target each other. Kuwait and other

Gulf states are very rich in oil. And we need that oil," he said.

"We are very rich in minerals, in gold, in diamonds, in manganese, in platinum, and in coal. And trade between the Gulf states and South Africa is going to be very profitable," he said, adding South Africa was prepared to share its mining expertise with the region.

Mr. Mandela, in answer to a question, said South Africa was prepared to export weapons provided the arms would not be used to suppress the citizens of the nation buying them.

Japan urges review of global currency system

TOKYO (R) — Japan's finance minister called Monday for a review of the global currency system as the U.S. dollar plunged to record lows against the yen, threatening the Japanese economy's shaky recovery.

Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura, in apparent frustration with currency market gyrations, told a parliamentary panel that the system under which exchange rates float freely, adopted in 1973, should be rethought.

"In order to counter the current rapid appreciation of the yen, Japan would like to emphasise policy coordination and intervention with other nations," he said, urging the United States to do more to defend the dollar.

"But we also need to think whether we can leave the current exchange rate system as it is now," he said.

Mr. Takemura noted some economists in other nations had begun discussing the possibility of reforms to the system, although analysts in Tokyo doubted major reforms would be practical.

"I don't think this is a serious proposal. Attempts to fix exchange rates (in Europe) in the last couple of years have been extremely unsuccessful and to try this now, with so much uncertainty at the global level, strikes me as impossible," said Robert Feldman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers Asia.

Top government spokesman Kozo Igarashi said the

yen's rise cast a shadow over the economy. "Since the economy is just showing signs of recovery, the yen's rise should intensify worries about the situation," he told a news conference.

Mr. Igarashi said Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama would ask the government's Economic Planning Agency to draw up emergency economic steps this week to cope with the yen's rise.

The sharp appreciation of the yen tends to squeeze profits at Japan's exporters and hurt their competitiveness abroad.

Mr. Igarashi said the plan would be "comprehensive and detailed," but did not specify what steps it would contain.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY APRIL 11, 1995
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You desire to get off to new interests today but don't be forewarned otherwise you spoil your chances with one who can assist you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You had better face up to some obligation instead of trying to worm yourself out of it. Be more harmonious tonight with your mate.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You may want to change partners or add another hastily, but tonight it would be better to sleep on it first and be sure of what is best.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't get frustrated today with your chosen career but find better ways of handling it efficiently. Hit on a more logical perspective.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Some extravagance you may indulge in today could bring remorse soon or you get severely criticised, so be more economical instead.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Don't make those changes at home today until you get the OK from all who dwell there and make everyone happy.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) You may get a letter today which can help you to advance very quickly to your career. Get rid of that flax in the path of your progress.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) Some financial investment you may make today could work to your detriment, so study it well. Don't lose your temper.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you try to get out of some unpleasant matter this morning, be careful not to act hastily. Enjoy yourself socially tonight with close friends.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You think you can quickly rid yourself of some constant worry, but give it more thought and then handle it wisely.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't follow the advice of a person today whose ideas are different from your own. Be more willing to accept help, though.

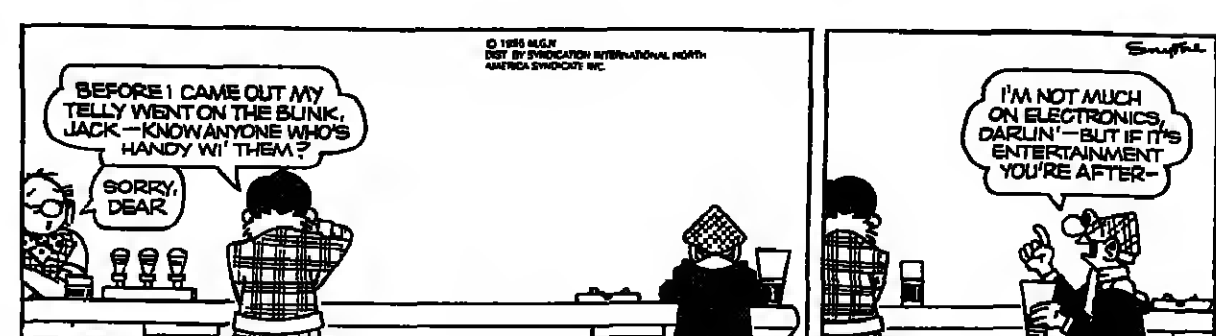
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Take it slow and easy at your regular activities and do it accurately today, without trying to make revisions which are not necessary.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

Peanuts



Andy Capp



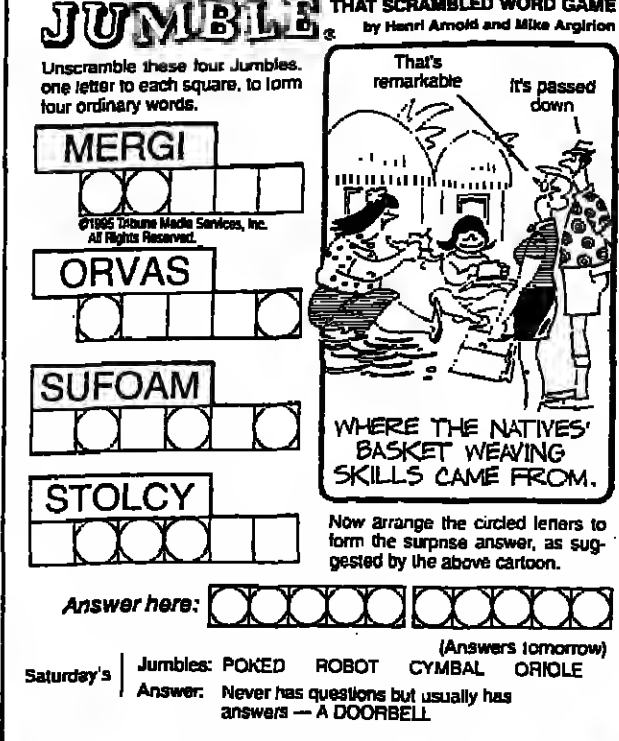
Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



THE Daily Crossword by Robert Zimmerman



Baku cancels Iran's share in oil deal

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Azerbaijan, apparently under U.S. pressure, had cancelled a deal giving Tehran a stake in a multi-billion-dollar agreement by an international consortium to develop Caspian Sea oil fields.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told the official news agency IRNA Sunday night that cancelling the agreement was not in Baku's interest. He did not elaborate.

It was the first official word that the agreement, to which the United States had strongly objected, has been cancelled.

Last month Washington forced the U.S. oil company Conoco to abandon an agreement with Iran worth about \$1 billion to develop a major offshore oilfield in the Gulf. Washington, citing con-

cerns about Iran's military buildup and charges that the Islamic republic supports terrorism, is drafting plans to impose sanctions on Tehran that include banning U.S. firms from buying its oil.

IRNA said Velayati "underlined that the unilateral cancellation of the oil agreement between Iran and Azerbaijan was against Baku's agreement... in the long run (the cancellation) is not in the interest of Baku."

Azerbaijan, which has a 20 per cent share in the consortium, had offered Iran a quarter of its stake in exchange for Tehran's help to finance the deal and fund energy projects in Azerbaijan's autonomous enclave of Nakhichevan.

But in March, Azerbaijan decided to sell a quarter of its 20 per cent share in the deal to U.S. Exxon Corp., and

another quarter to Turkish Petroleum Corp.

On Saturday Iran's English-language Iran News newspaper blamed Washington for the Azeri decision, saying Baku cancelled the deal after "Azeri officials sat at the negotiating table with Washington in order to pocket U.S. dollars..."

"The consortium's member oil companies last month deposited huge sums in dollars into the accounts of some Azeri cabinet members and oil officials in Switzerland to bribe them," the newspaper said.

Azeri President Haydar Aliyev announced the deal with Exxon on April 3. In March he said that Azerbaijan had agreed that the Turkish Petroleum Corp. could increase its stake in the \$7.4 billion project to 6.75 per

cent from 1.75 per cent.

Mr. Velayati told IRNA Azerbaijan's unilateral deals with other consortium members "are not valid" as long as Iran and fellow Caspian Sea littoral states had not negotiated a formal share-out of the sea's oil riches.

The project covers the Azeri, Chirag and deepwater Guneshli fields, which have estimated recoverable reserves of between 400 million and 520 million tonnes of light crude.

The consortium, set up last year, is led by an alliance of British Petroleum Co. PLC and Den Norske Stats Oljeselskap A/S (Statoil). It also includes Amoco Corp., McDermott International Inc., Pennzoil Co., Unocal Corp., Rameo Energy Plc, Saudi Arabia's Delta Nimir, Turkish Petroleum Corp and Russia's Lukoil.

Matsushita's MCA sale raises queries on future

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Matsushita must go back to the drawing board after selling a four-fifths stake in its MCA Inc. movie unit, but analysts said Monday they wonder if the electronics giant can plot a new path.

Canadian beverage group Seagram Co. said late Sunday it was buying an 80 per cent MCA stake for \$5.7 billion, ending several days of talks with Matsushita Electric Industrial Co.

Analysts said the price was less than expected, and would probably result in a capital loss given the yen's appreciation and the original \$6.13 billion cost to Matsushita.

More importantly, some analysts expressed doubts about whether Matsushita could succeed in crafting a new strategy combining its electronics hardware with entertainment "software."

Keeping 20 per cent doesn't mean anything, Matsushita now has no synergy between software and hardware," said Takeo Naruse, electronics analyst at Daiwa Institute of Research. Matsushita had been mired in a squabble with MCA management executives, and analysts said the deterioration in relations was doubtless a factor in pushing for a somewhat hasty sale.

"I think the relationship had deteriorated to such an extent that MCA had become

impossible to manage," said one analyst. "Matsushita's main source of what was going on at MCA was variety magazine."

Seagram chief executive

Edgar Bronfman said the split covered all of MCA's operations and businesses, with neither Seagram nor Matsushita taking any part of MCA for their own.

UAE imports rise in '94, export down

DUBAI (R) — Imports into the three main trading centres of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) rose in 1994 but both non-oil exports and the commercially significant reexports declined, according to official reports.

Non-oil exports of the three centres — Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah — dropped 30 per cent to 4.5 billion dirhams (\$1.22 billion) compared with the previous year. Figures for oil exports are rarely published and the trade of the other four UAE emirates is of little significance.

The imports of Dubai and Abu Dhabi, the most active trade centres, rose by 8.3 per cent to 71.5 billion (\$19.6 billion) in 1994 compared with 66 billion (\$18 billion) dirhams in 1993.

Sharjah's imports climbed slightly in 1994 to 5.6 billion dirhams (\$1.5 billion). In Dubai and Abu Dhabi, where reexports are crucial trade indicators, their value dropped 17.9 per cent to 11.3 billion dirhams (\$3 billion) from 13.8 billion (\$3.7 billion) in 1993.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN				
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 10/04/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PIG	520	111940	193.500	193.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	8347	40102	4.860	4.790
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	9300	14078	1.520	1.540
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1235	3322	2.680	2.700
THE HOUSING BANK	32666	224372	6.850	6.960
JORDAN KUNAAT BANK	1385	4030	2.920	2.910
JORDAN GULF BANK	34550	46299	1.390	1.350
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	8000	28800	3.500	3.600
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	11243	42928	3.850	3.830
BUSINESS BANK	350	1243	3.580	3.550
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	3900	15405	3.960	3.950
WEST BANK SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	1000	3150	3.200	3.150
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	46900	97215	1.260	1.230
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	370	1480	4.100	4.000
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	94119	152938	1.580	1.610
BANKS SECTOR	254190	747510	INDEX NUMBER: 165.28	CHANGE: +0.02
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	10406	29157	2.810	2.840
INSURANCE SECTOR	10406	29157	INDEX NUMBER: 136.94	CHANGE: +0.14
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	10750	17686	1.640	1.650
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	20250	31388	1.550	1.550
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	11624	86953	7.480	7.480
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	9360	5802	7.370	7.450
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	785	5943	2.970	2.970
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1050	2351	2.320	2.240
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	450	489	1.060	1.020
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	8300	5478	660	660
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRAI	450	4671	10.400	10.400
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONSUMER HOTELS	77750	210188	2.700	2.730
ARAB CENTER FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	1150	2819	3.320	3.330
JORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	3000	3765	1.300	1.280
SERVICES SECTOR	137559	378491	INDEX NUMBER: 143.14	CHANGE: +0.04
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	26188	80101	3.070	3.060
JORDAN PROCEPTE KINES	450	1148	2.610	2.550
THE ARAB POTASH/NEW	400	1908	4.800	4.750
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1081	10054	9.340	9.300
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	9360	5802	7.370	7.450
THE JORDAN WORTED MILLS	9000	74848	8.400	8.300
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	2725	10704	3.970	3.950
JORDAN DAIRY	750	1845	2.520	2.460
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	1000	5710	5.710	5.710
ARAB CHEMICAL OXYGENATES INDUSTRIES	250	3513	14.500	14.050
DAR AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	250	1988	7.900	7.950
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	30600	28730	9.350	9.550
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	1275	9240	7.250	7.150
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	16600	10989	670	670
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	136700	205540	1.520	1.540
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	150	476	3.150	3.150
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	17300	46828	2.680	2.650
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	250	1050	4.000	4.200
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	1200	5640	4.700	4.700
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	1074	1074	1.850	1.750
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	650	1491	2.280	2.300
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	173	3460	3.460	3.460
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	2500	5010	2.020	2.010
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	252569	514394	INDEX NUMBER: 120.77	CHANGE: +0.62
GRAND TOTAL	654724	1669552	INDEX NUMBER: 145.56	CHANGE: +0.23
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		398752		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		590496		

Entrance fee to Aqaba hotels seem necessary

*** HOTELS IN Aqaba are charging an entrance fee to those who wish to use the beach in front of the hotels.

According to Sami Abbadi, manager of the Aqaba Hotel, the entrance fee is necessary to keep away some people "who come here for other purposes."

Mr. Abbadi says: "There are people who come to the hotel and perform uncivilized acts in front of tourists. It is better for everybody that such people do not enter at all."

The Aqaba Hotel manager stressed that the fee is not charged to collect more money but rather to maintain the reputation and the civilized image of the country. "Quite often we let people in without paying an entrance fee because we are convinced that they have come only to swim and relax," Mr. Abbadi said. He urged the Aqaba Regional Authority to provide basic services at the public beach noting that the hotel shoulders high costs to provide facilities to its beach. Abdul Rabim Al Zarou, manager of the Holiday Hotel, said the hotel had a right to collect an entrance fee because it provides all the necessary facilities to whoever wants to spend a day on the beach. "We provide a swimming pool, chairs, pillows and cushions, towels, security, cleanliness, sanitary facilities and other services," he pointed out (Al Dustour).

*** THE OBLIGATORY third party insurance caused a JD 198,905 loss at the vehicle department of the National Abila Insurance Company. Other departments produced positive results but, according to the company's annual report for 1994, they were not up to targets. The company fared better in its investments portfolio which rose to JD 1.43 million at the end of last year. The company collected JD 2.72 million in premiums but paid claims amounted to JD 1.57 million in 1994. The board of directors is recommending to the general assembly the distribution of dividends at a rate of 11 per cent. Total assets of the company stood at JD 3.64 million while total shareholders equity stood at JD 1.37 million at the end of 1994 (Al Aswaq).

*** THE JORDAN National Bank increased net profit after tax by 20.1 per cent to JD 5.18 million in 1994. The board of directors is recommending to the general assembly the distribution of dividends at a rate of 12 per cent. The bank, which raised its capital from JD 9.1 million to JD 16 million last year, boosted deposits by 19 per cent to JD 282 million and credit facilities by 10.5 per cent to JD 190 million. The bank's total assets at the end of 1994 stood at JD 396.9 million and its net profit to JD 320.2 million in 1993 (Al Dustour).

*** DRIVING LESSONS now cost JD 4 per hour. The old charge was JD 3.25 an hour (Al Dustour).

*** THE BOARD of directors of the National Cable and Wire Manufacturing Company is recommending to the general assembly the distribution of JD 1 million, or 20 per cent, in dividends (Al Aswaq).

*** BOOSTING earnings by 13.55 per cent to JD 2.45 million, the General Arabia Insurance Company posted a 1994 net profit of JD 297,347, of which JD 123,410 were generated from insurance operations and the rest from gains on investments. The company's board of directors is recommending the distribution of dividends at a rate of 12 per cent. The company whose capital is JD 1.2 million, had total assets of JD 4.24 million at the end of last year. According to the annual report, the board said that reinsurance companies have started to impose stiff terms when renewing agreements regarding risks of natural disasters (Al Aswaq).

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York 10/4/95	Tokyo 10/4/95
Sterling Pound	1.6143	1.6093
Deutsche Mark	1.3784	1.3963
Swiss Franc	1.1284	1.1475
French Franc	6.7855	6.8534
Japanese Yen	85.74	82.83
European Currency Unit	1.3773	1.3207

Source: Reuters

European Central Bank

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.87	6.00	6.12	6.43
Sterling Pound	5.87	6.31	6.68	7.16
Deutsche Mark	4.31	4.37	4.45	4.68
Swiss Franc	3.06	3.06	3.18	3.31
French Franc	7.06	6.93	6.62	6.43
Japanese Yen	1.56	1.50	1.43	1.43
European Currency Unit	6.06	6.12	6.16	6.50

Source: Reuters

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6850	0.6870
Sterling Pound	1.0945	1.1000
Deutsche Mark	0.4864	0.4884
Swiss Franc	0.5939	0.5949
French Franc	0.1406	0.1413
Japanese Yen	0.8230	0.8271
Dutch Guilder	0.4374	0.4396
Swedish Krona	0.0399	0.0399
Italian Lira	0.0399	0.0399
Belgian Franc	0.0399	0.0399

Source: Reuters

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Baharain Dinar	1.8010	1.8130
Lebanese Lira	0.041352	0.042575
Saudi Riyal	0.1833	0.1834
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3170	2.3700
Qatari Riyal	0.1870	0.1882
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7200	1.7420
UAE Dirham	0.1859	0.1872
Greek Drachma	0.0685	0.0735
Cypriot Pound	1.4615	1.5480

Source: Reuters

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Baharain Dinar	1.8010	1.8130
Lebanese Lira	0.041352	0.042575
Saudi Riyal	0.1833	0.1834
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3170	2.3700
Qatari Riyal	0.1870	0.1882
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7200	1.7420
UAE Dirham	0.1859	0.1872
Greek Drachma	0.0685	0.0735
Cypriot Pound	1.4615	1.5480

Source: Reuters

Other Currencies

Other Currencies

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Sports

Agassi takes over world No. 1 slot

TOKYO (AP) — Andre Agassi ended Pete Sampras' 82 weeks atop the world tennis rankings before even stepping on the court for the Japan Open, while seeds Martin Damm and Jonathan Stark suffered first-round upsets Monday.

In rankings released Monday by the ATP Tour, Agassi led Sampras 4,403 points to 4,216, capping a 12-month period in which he had won seven tournaments, including the U.S. and Australian Opens.

Sampras slipped behind when his points for winning the 1994 Japan Open became more than a year old and dropped out of the computer. Agassi won their last meeting, March 26 in the Lipton Championships.

Sampras still could regain the No. 1 spot by doing well this week in a tournament in Barcelona, Spain, where he is preparing on clay for the French Open — if Agassi does poorly in the Japan Open, on the hard courts of Tokyo's Ariake Coliseum. Agassi, with a first-round bye, does not play until Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Australia's Scott Draper, who has been a winner on his local satellite tour, ousted No. 10 seed Jonathan Stark of the United States 6-3, 7-6 (7-5), and Dutch player Stephan Nijboer trounced ninth-seeded Martin Damm of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-1.

Draper scored his key breaks while leading 4-3 in the first set and at 4-4 in the tiebreak.

American Jeff Tarango, the 13th seed, beat Japan's Satoshi Iwabuchi 6-1, 6-3, and 14th seed Greg Rusedski of Canada, using his big serve and angled volleys, defeated Australian Paul Kilderry 6-3, 6-3.

No other men's seeds were in action Monday. Second seed Michael Chang, No. 6 in the latest world rankings, had

a bye. So did the next six seeds — Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, Jim Courier of the United States, Thomas Enqvist and Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden, Alexander Volkov of Russia and Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands.

Tommy Ho of the United States beat Marcos Ondruska of South Africa 6-3, 6-3, Carsten Arriens of Germany downed Lander Paes of India 7-5, 6-3, Jan Apell of Sweden defeated American Jim Grabb 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-3) and Japan's Koutaro Miyachi ousted American David Pate 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

Japan's No. 1 male player, Shuzo Matsuoka, let a match point slip away at 5-4 in the final set before winning 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-5).

In the women's section, top seed Kimiko Date, ranked eighth in the world, started her quest for her fourth consecutive Japan Open title by beating Japanese compatriot Yuka Yoshida 6-2, 6-4.

No. 3 seed Marianne Werdel Witte of the United States overpowered Japan's Ai Sugiyama 6-3, 6-4, and



Andre Agassi

No. 6 seed Yone Kamio of Japan beat Janette Husárová of Slovakia 6-3, 6-2.

Rennae Stubbs of Australia beat Noelle Van Lottum of France 6-4, 6-4, and Park Sung-Hee of South Korea downed Japan's Hiromi Nagano 6-4, 7-5.

The men's singles winner receives \$156,000 from total prize money of \$1.2 million.

The women's division offers only a \$25,000 top prize. After Date, the next highest-ranking woman in the field is American Amy Frazier, ranked 16th.

EUROPEAN BASKETBALL

Greek teams lead Spanish invasion

ZARAGOZA, Spain (R) — Athens comes to Spain this week as Olympiakos and Panathinaikos, the Colossi of Greek basketball, head a four-way clash in the final stage of the European Champions Clubs' competition.

The Greeks, who topped their respective qualifying groups and enjoy a fanatical rivalry, lock horns in a potentially explosive semifinal on Tuesday night.

The winners take on either Spain's Real Madrid or Limoges of France, who get Europe's top tournament under way in the other semifinal earlier in the day.

Olympiakos, who lost last year's final by a single basket to Spain's Joventut Badalona, are narrow favorites to win the competition.

Both Greek teams have ploughed money into building up squads which, on their day, are capable of beating any team in Europe.

Olympiakos have an array of domestic and foreign talent but will rely on veteran NBA pointscorer Eddie Johnson in attack, and George Sigalis, back after

breaking a leg, in defence. Key playmaker Thymios Bakatsias has also recently returned from a broken leg.

If Olympiakos have an Achilles heel it is against Limoges, a team they have never beaten in any European competition and to whom they lost twice during the season.

Panathinaikos, who finished third last year, have had to rebuild their team following the retirement of the country's top player Nick Galis earlier this season.

Their title campaign has been headed by Montenegrin forward Zarko Paspalj and Greek national captain Panayotis Yannakis.

The Greek teams arrived in Zaragoza on Sunday for a weekend training session in the Principe Felipe Stadium and brought with them armies of fans with a reputation for trouble at key games.

Over 3,000 Greeks have made the trip west and Spanish police are taking no chances. More than 1,000 officers have been drafted into Zaragoza, where last week they had to deal with rioting soccer fans from En-

glish club Chelsea.

Real Madrid, runners in the group A quarterfinal, rely on the help of Lithuanian Arvidas Sabonas and the point-scoring wing-pivot Joe Arland.

They are coached by Joao Baptista, who won the third European title in four years, all with different clubs.

In 1992 he took Real Madrid to the European title and last year Joventut Badalona won the title.

When Obradovic moved out in 1993, it was Limoges who took the title, the first French team ever to do so.

They bring 1,200 fans across the Pyrenees and are looking to American NBA player Tim Kempton to lead their attack.

"We're going to win the title," Kempton says. "We've beaten Olympiakos twice this season, once in Greece, which shows what we're worth. We're capable of winning in Zaragoza and we're not going there just to make up the numbers."

Martinez beats Sabatini in straight sets

AMELIA ISLAND (AP) — Conchita Martinez capitalised on an overpowering first set to win her second straight tournament, routing Gabriela Sabatini 6-1, 6-4 Sunday in the final of the Bausch and Lomb Championships.

Martinez, who a week ago won the Family Circle Magazine Cup at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, sent the Argentine star to her third consecutive loss in the Bausch and Lomb final.

Martinez won in 74 minutes, with the first set taking but 25 minutes.

"It was important to get off to a fast start, especially with the crowd behind her," said Martinez, the top seed who is ranked No. 4 in the world. "I don't mind the fans cheering for her, but it does bother me some when they cheer my mistakes."

Sabatini, ranked seventh in the world, appeared ready to take the second set when she broke the Spaniard in the eighth game to make it 4-4. But Martinez broke the following game and held serve to win the match after Sabatini's backhand lob landed in the net.

"I played a couple games too passive in that second set and she took advantage of

that," said Martinez, who has beaten Sabatini three times in a row. "After she won my serve at love, I tried to get more aggressive and challenge her more, especially her backhand."

The last two years Sabatini lost to another Spaniard, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, in the finals of this event. Sabatini won the title in 1989, 1991 and 1992.

"That first set went really fast. I just never got into it," Sabatini said. "I played better in the second set and was able to move her around more and score points. Then I lost my concentration at the end and she took those last games and the match."

Sabatini said Martinez could well become the world's premier female player.

"She has the game and the mental toughness to get to No. 1," Sabatini said. "If she stays consistent and continues to play like she has, she could move into the top spot."

The second-seeded team of Amanda Coetzer of South Africa and Ines Gorrochategui of Argentina won the doubles championship with a 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 win over top-seeded Nicole Pietrangeli of the United States and Manon Bollegraf of the Netherlands.

Muster beats Costa

In Lisbon, Portugal, Thomas Muster overcame a queasy stomach and a blistering sun Sunday to beat Spain's Alberto Costa 6-4, 6-2 and claim the title at the \$575,000 Estoril Open.

It was the 19th career clay court title for the 27-year-old Austrian, the most by any player on the slow stuff since the ATP Tour began in 1990. He outduelled the 19-year-old Spaniard for 80 minutes to earn \$77,000 for his second title of the year and 25th of his career.

"I think I should have played better. I had an upset stomach," Muster said upon accepting the open's Portuguese porcelain cup. "But I'm very happy."

Costa, the 1993 European junior champion and ranked 58th by the ATP Tour, fared well against Muster early in the match on the centre court of the national stadium between Lisbon and the Riviera Resort of Estoril.

The first games were characterised by conservative play by both men, with few approaches to the net and many lengthy baseline rallies.



Conchita Martinez

gued, losing his serve to Muster in the first game.

The Spaniard rallied by breaking Muster in the second game and saved five break points in the third.

"In the fifth game, Muster broke Costa to lead 3-2. From that point on, the Spaniard lost rhythm and every game as Muster cruised to victory."

Costa, who is not related to last year's Estoril Open winner, Carlos Costa, was vying

for his first ATP Tour title. The Estoril Open was his second final in three weeks after reaching the final at the Grand Prix Hassan II in Casablanca, Morocco three weeks earlier.

In the doubles final, Russian top-seeds Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Andrei Olhovskiy came from behind to defeat the duo formed by German Marc Goellner and Italian Diego Nargiso 5-7, 7-5, 6-2.

DUTY-FREE CAR FOR SALE

Embassy of India wishes to sell a duty-free Mercedes Benz 200-E Sedan, model 1991, air-conditioned with automatic gears, radio cassette player etc., in excellent condition, regularly maintained by Mercedes Benz agents in Amman; mileage 11000 kms.

May be inspected at Embassy of India premises (First Circle, Jabal Amman, telephone No. 622098/637262) between 9-12 noon and 2:30-4:00 p.m. on any working day (Friday and Saturday closed). Expected price: U.S.\$17,000.

FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Nice location, Shmeisani, ground floor, part of a villa, small garden, yard and private entrance. Two bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen, dining, reception and sitting room. Private telephone, excellent furniture. For more information, telephone 663888 from 2-3 p.m.

Instituto Cervantes Spanish Language Courses ALL LEVELS

Courses start on April 17, 1995. Registration opens as of April 10, 1995. Instituto Cervantes: Jabal Amman, Third Circle, Tel. 610858

DELUXE FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Location Shmeisani, near Bird's Garden. Deluxe building, 3 bedrooms, salon, sitting, dining, kitchen, separate central heating, 4th floor with lift. Rent U.S.\$10,000 per annum. Ref. Owner Arch Dr. W. Abidi. Tel. 664950 - 698100 9 a.m.-2 p.m., 5-10 p.m.

POSITION AVAILABLE

A U.S. consulting company is looking for an Administrative Assistant for a large, USAID-funded project within the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

Duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

Supervise administrative staff; coordinate contractual matters; work with the project accountant on financial activities; draft all administrative correspondence; prepare and edit all administrative reports; prepare bi-annual budgets; prepare and track management activity forecasts.

Qualifications:

B.A. Degree in Business Management, Communications, Social Science, or appropriate discipline; at least 6 years professional experience, with experience in a supervisory position preferred; knowledge of AID and AID contract regulations; some accounting or financial management experience; experience producing and editing reports; knowledge of Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel required, electronic mail and project management systems preferred; interest in environmental issues; must be self-motivated and able to work independently; excellent written and spoken English communication skills.

Please send resume to:

DAI WQIC project, P.O. Box 851532.

Al Suweifiyah 11185, Amman.

Closing date for resumes is April 23, 1995.

GOREN BRIDGE

North-South vulnerable, North deals. NORTH: ♠ 5 6 7, ♥ A 10 9 8 6, ♦ A K 6 2, ♣ A K 8 5. WEST: ♠ A 3, ♥ K 7 3 2, ♦ J 3, ♣ 8 7. SOUTH: ♠ K Q 7 4 3, ♥ J 10 9 7 5, ♦ A J 2, ♣ K Q 9 5 4 2. The bidding: North East South West 1♠ Pass 1♥ 1♠ 3♥ 3♠ 4♠.

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Cinema Tel.: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

Tom Hanks in Forrest Gump

Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15

Cinema Tel.: 699238

PLAZA

Fifi Abdo & Kamal Shinnawi Wahid Self...in PENULTY

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel.: 677420

CONCORD

Comedian star: Adel Imam — Bakhit & Andadilleh

Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00

Jean-Claude Van Dam STREET FIGHTER

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 11:00

Cinema Tel.: 618274 - 618275

AMMOUN THEATRE

Musa Hijazin "Sum'a" in the political satire HI CITIZEN

written and directed by Mohammad Al Shewaqia daily on 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes on Monday — Halfa Al Agha in the children's play

★ Sa'di's Return ★

Cinema Tel.: 67571

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre

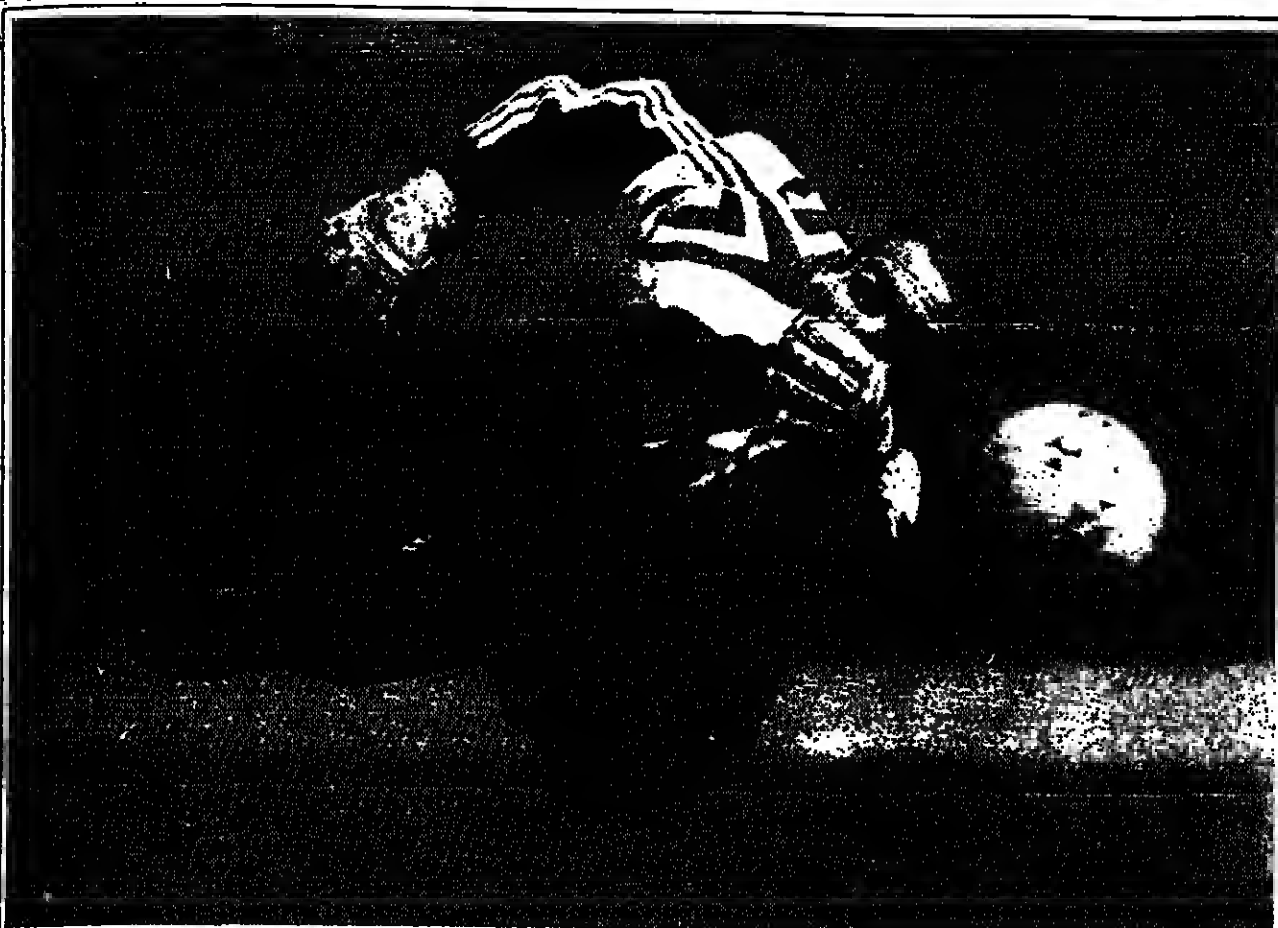
Shows of "Qirbeh Makhzouqa" will be stopped from now until further notice.

Cinema Tel.: 625153

AHLAN THEATRE

Presents: The political satire: AL SALAM YA SALAM at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625153

The theatre is closed Saturdays & Sundays



Former Argentine National team's goalkeeper Luis Alberto Islas of Independiente jumps to the ball during a practice session for the JAL Cup '95 at the National Stadium in Tokyo (AFP photo)

Juventus suffer rare setback as 'spotlight falls on Gascoigne

PARIS (AFP) — The battle for supremacy in European league football took a back seat to the long awaited return of slimline Paul Gascoigne on Sunday.

The spotlight fell on Lazio, out of contention for Italian league honours but hoping for a UEFA Cup place, who were at home to Reggina in the Italian League.

While the Serie A's top two sides Juventus and Parma both crashed to defeat, 2-1 to Torino and 3-2 to AC Milan respectively, the focus was on a Gascoigne, recovered from broken right leg, who lasted the entire game to help Lazio win 2-0 at home. The 27-year-old star of England's 1990 World Cup campaign, who has shed an astonishing 44lbs during his latest fight for fitness, also appeared with his head shaved, copying the style of Juventus striker Gialluca Vialli.

He dodged the press afterwards but Reggina opponent Angelo Gregucci did the talking for him, saying: "I was impressed, particularly because he finished so strongly."

Lazio's goals both came in the second half, with the prolific Giuseppe Signori sealing the result with 13 minutes to go with his 14th strike of the season.

Sunday's win will consolidate the club's battle for a place in next season's UEFA Cup, keeping them in fifth on 44 points. Juventus still lead on 58 points to Parma's 49, with Milan joining AS Roma, who drew 0-0 at Napoli, on 45.

"Gazza" will hope to make his mark quickly in Lazio's challenge after a disastrous run of injuries threatened to end his career. He tore knee ligaments in the 1991 English FA Cup final for Tottenham, then injured the knee again in a Newcastle nightclub five months later.

Lazio bought him for a cut-price 5.5 million pounds in June 1992, but Gascoigne lasted just 45 minutes of his debut before injuring the knee yet again. His latest freak injury came while training with the team on April 7 last year.

AC Milan, meanwhile, fresh from a fine 1-0 away win over Paris Saint Germain in the European Champions Cup semi-final, stunned second-placed Parma on Sunday with two goals in the opening quarter-of-an-hour from Gianluigi Lentini and from Marco Simone with a spot-kick.

Ginafranco Zola replied with a penalty of his own but Simone's second after 52 minutes was the clincher, despite another Zola penalty seven minutes from time.

Veteran international Milan defender Franco Baresi was sent off for a professional foul on Stefano Fiore with half-an-hour to play.

Juventus' Turin derby defeat, meanwhile, bore the trademark of Ruggiero Rizzitelli, who grabbed a double with 6th and 33rd minute goals, the second a header from a Jocelyn Angloma cross.

The home side, who also

ing with the team on April 7

last year.

Bayern, who had to recall 35-year-old Hansi Pfluger to make up the numbers, earned their 13th draw of the season with an equaliser on half time from Mehmet Scholl.

Uwe Spies grabbed two of Freiburg's goals, one after six minutes and the other with four minutes to go.

Bayer Leverkusen meanwhile, who earlier on Saturday sacked Serbian coach Dragoslav Stankovic after the side's 2-1 defeat to Parma in the UEFA Cup, beat Borussia Moenchengladbach, fifth in the Bundesliga, 3-1.

Andreas Thom, Ulf Kirsten and Brazilian Sergio — with a final-minute strike — got Leverkusen's goals.

In Spain Real Madrid held on to their six-point lead at the top of the table ahead of La Coruna when they beat Real Zaragoza 3-0 at home.

Zaragoza looked fatigued from their 3-0 defeat of Chelsea in Thursday's European Cup Winners' Cup semi-final first leg.

The home side, who also

ended with ten men when Portuguese player Paulo Sousa was sent off midway through the second half for an off-the-ball incident, responded through Roberto Baggio on 22 minutes.

The leaders had been hampered by injuries to key strikers Gialluca Vialli and Fabrizio Ravanelli.

In Germany Borussia Dortmund came down to earth after their European exploits and handed Werder Bremen the perfect chance to join them at the top of the Bundesliga by drawing 0-0 at Schalke.

That left the leaders, who drew 2-2 away with Juventus in the UEFA Cup in midweek, on 37 points. Werder saw off Munich 1860 2-2 to join the leaders on 37 points.

Freiburg, meanwhile, took the opportunity to edge closer with a 3-0 win over visiting Duisburg, joining Kaiserslautern, who drew 1-1, at injury-plagued Bayern Munich, on 34.

Reigning champions Barcelona, third in the table,

Real Madrid scored through Raul (20-min), Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano (76), and Slovakian Peter Dubovsky (80) and the victory could well have been heavier had Zamorano not missed a penalty.

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Death of fan overshadows FA Cup semifinal

WALSALL, England (Agencies) — Police said Monday that soccer fan Paul Nixon died under the wheels of a bus during a brawl between Manchester United and Crystal Palace supporters before their FA Cup semifinal.

Three men were arrested in connection with the incident which happened Sunday on a parking lot outside a pub. But Supt. John Plimmer said that 35-year-old Nixon, a Palace fan, died of multiple injuries after falling under the front wheels of a moving bus carrying Palace supporters.

The Football Association, meanwhile, was meeting in London to decide whether to call off Wednesday's replay between the two clubs following Sunday's 2-2 tie.

West Midlands police, who advised the FA to go ahead with the replay as planned, said three men arrested were all from the Manchester area and were aged 27, 28 and 29. "The trouble caused by a nucleus of imbeciles who had been drinking," Plimmer said.

Another Palace fan was stabbed and seriously wounded in the brawl, which involved about 100 fans wielding bricks, stones, bottles and glasses.

Witnesses said the fight erupted after an exchange of taunts regarding Eric Cantona, the Manchester United star who launched a kung-fu-style attack on a Palace fan on Jan. 25 at Selhurst Park. That incident intensified

the usual rivalry between the two sets of fans. Sunday's game was the first time the two teams had met since that Selhurst Park match.

Cantona was given a 14-day prison sentence after pleading guilty to the attack in January, but a judge later reduced that to 120 hours community service.

Two busloads of fans had arrived at the pub in a quiet residential area a few hours before the game.

"They just went berserk," said Julie Butler, who lives nearby. "They were throwing glasses and bottles and they were ripping off the bricks and big stones and trying to smash them into smaller ones to hurt at people."

It was the latest in a catalogue of recent incidents involving English fans and part of a resurgence in soccer hooliganism.

When England played Ireland in an exhibition game in Dublin in February, English fans started ripping up seats and hurling them at fans seated below. The game was abandoned after only 27 minutes.

Chelsea fans have been arrested for starting trouble in Belgium and Spain this season.

FA spokesman Mike Parry said he was "horrified" by Sunday's incident but it was too early to say whether Wednesday's game would go ahead as scheduled.

Earlier this year, Italian officials called off an entire weekend's schedule of games

following the stabbing death of a Genoa fan.

Everton await final opponents

Meanwhile, Everton, who are not yet safe from Premier League relegation, forgot those worries to reach the F.A. Cup final with a 4-1 annihilation of highly-fancied Tottenham at Elland Road on Sunday.

But they will have to wait to discover whether they will play holders Manchester United in a repeat of the 1985 final or fellow-strugglers Crystal Palace at Wembley on May 20.

Palace, who at 19th place are just one below Everton in the Premier League relegation zone, held United to a 2-2 extra time draw in the other semifinal at Villa Park.

But while the outcome of that semifinal was always in doubt, there was no doubting it was to be Everton's day once they kicked off at a ground where they have not won for 43 years.

They attacked Tottenham from the first whistle and left manager Joe Royle beaming afterwards. "We played a lot of very good football and we never let them settle. I was very proud of my team and we beat Tottenham on merit."

"We were so eager to play that even Daniel Amokachi came on as substitute for Paul Rideout when Paul was injured on the sideline signalling he was okay to come back on. But Amokachi got on quick before anyone could

stop him and scored twice himself. That's what it was all about."

As well as Amokachi's goals in the last 10 minutes, Everton also scored through Matthew Jackson and Graham Stuart to reach their fifth final in 11 years.

Tottenham manager Gerry Francis was downhearted afterwards. "We never did ourselves justice. There were too many players who didn't perform as well as they can but all credit to Everton. They deserved it."

Tottenham's only consolation was a 63rd minute penalty from Jurgen Klinsmann, whose dream of becoming the first German since Bert Trautmann in 1956 to play in English soccer's showpiece occasion was swept aside by Everton's determination.

Shearer voted top player

Alan Shearer's immense contribution to Blackburn's pending Premiership title success was recognised by his fellow professionals, who voted him their player of the year on Sunday.

England striker Shearer, who has scored more than 30 League goals in successive seasons, collected the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) award from his club manager Kenny Dalglish, the guest of honour and a former winner himself.

He was voted number one ahead of Southampton's Matthew Le Tissier and Tottenham's Jurgen Klinsmann, to succeed last year's winner Eric Cantona.

Job Opportunity

AMIN KAWAR & SONS CO. W.L.L.

Amin Kawar & Sons Co., Shipping Division, a leader in the shipping business in Jordan, has a vacancy for the following positions:

- Accountant:**
 - Holder of BSc in Accounting from a Jordanian, European or American university only.
 - Post graduate work experience of 3-5 years.
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- Claims Adjuster:**
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 - Excellent command of both written and spoken English is a must.
 - Post graduate work experience in related fields is a plus.
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- Typist:**
 - Good command in English.
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Only prospective candidates who should be self-motivated and hard working must mail their supporting documents including a detailed curriculum vitae with a recent photograph on the following address not later than April 25th, 1995:

Human Resources Manager
P. O. Box 222
Amman 11118
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Olympic officials want to assure China's participation in '96

ORLANDO (AP) — U.S. Olympic officials said Sunday they were taking extraordinary steps to ensure China sends a team to the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta, a trip that could be jeopardized by criticism of drug use by Chinese athletes.

Those concerns were heightened last week when the Chinese sports minister cancelled a meeting with U.S. Olympic Committee leaders at the committee's headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado, according



ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS: His Royal Highness Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Monday received at the Royal Court the credentials of eight new ambassadors to Jordan. Prince Hassan received in separate meetings (clockwise) the credentials of Sing-



aporean Ambassador V.K. Rajan, North Korea's Choe Kwang Rae, the Vatican's Archbishop Giuseppe Lanzarotto, Thailand's Kwanchai Lubhitanonda, Pakistan's Ali Sarwar Naqvi and Yemen's Hassan Al Lawzi, Malta's Yves de Barro and Israel's Shimon Shamir. In



his meeting with the Israeli envoy, Prince Hassan voiced hope that peace would prevail in the region and voiced regret "over the fall of innocent victims." The ceremonies were attended by His Majesty King Hus-



sein's advisor Mohammad Rasoul Al Kilani and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti (photos by Youssef Allan)



COLUMN

Passengers watch jumbo lose wing flap in mid-air

LONDON (R) — Passengers on a Jumbo Jet watched part of the aircraft's wing tear off as they came in to land at a British airport, just hours after one man warned of the impending disaster, a newspaper said Monday. The wing flap on the Garuda Indonesia airplane carrying 400 passengers smashed into the rear fuselage before falling 500 feet (152 metres) to the ground in Surrey, southern England, narrowly missing houses and farm buildings. "Two hours previously, passengers had warned the crew of flight GA 976 from Jakarta that the 20 feet by four feet (six metre by one metre) section of flap was loose as the aircraft took off from Zurich," the Times said. The pilot had no indication of the seriousness of the problem because the flap was retracted after take-off and was not extended until just before the plane was due to land at London's Gatwick Airport. Economics student Andrew Hendry, 20, said passengers could clearly see the wing flapping around before the plane took off for Gatwick. "One man — I think he had some aeronautical knowledge — even drew a picture of exactly where it was and gave it to a member of the crew," he told the newspaper. The aircraft landed safely after the pilot managed to stabilise the plane. Garuda refused to comment until receiving a detailed report about the incident from the Civil Aviation Authority.

Sioux delegation in Scotland to reclaim Wounded Knee shirt

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — Talks on the fate of a sacred warrior shirt removed from a dead Sioux at the Battle of Wounded Knee began. The shirt, known as a ghost shirt and believed to have mystical protective powers, was brought to Glasgow, Scotland in 1891 by Buffalo Bill Cody's Traveling Road Show. It has been on display in various Glasgow Museums since 1892. The cotton shirt had been removed from a dead ghost dance warrior, at the South Dakota battle the year before, in which the U.S. cavalry massacred at least 144 Dakota Sioux. The Wounded Knee Survivors Association — now representing the descendants of the battle — heard of the shirt's existence two years ago, a delegation arrived over the weekend to negotiate its return. There are other ghost shirts in existence, but the Glasgow shirt is reputedly the only one removed from Wounded Knee. "This is going to be a tough one," said Mark O'Neill, the senior history curator for Glasgow Museums. He said that he was seeking a way to return the shirt without setting a precedent that would place other museum artifacts in jeopardy. "We have to make sure that this is a unique case, or that it is different from more generalised claims," he said.

'White pollution' swamps Shanghai

SHANGHAI (R) — A mountain of disposable plastic food boxes, packing cases and agricultural sheets are dumped in Shanghai every year, swamping the city in "white pollution," the Liberation Daily said Monday. About two million white food boxes are dropped around railway stations and restaurants each year, along with more than 10,000 tonnes of plastic cases and sheets, it said. All are made from by-products of petrochemicals, including polystyrene, polypropylene and polyvinyl chloride, and if they are buried will not rot for hundreds of years, it said. "Just a dozen years ago, these plastic products were called a 'white revolution' but the waste has become a serious pollution after accumulating for years. The 'white pollution' is spreading more and more quickly," it said. "China is increasingly not like plastic packing of food. Developing new containers and wiping out 'white pollution' has become an urgent task." A Ministry of Railways Research Centre recently invented a new type of fast-food box made of paper pulp fibre.

Jordan seeks to reconsolidate ties with Arab financial bodies

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will seek to boost its relations with Arab financial institutions and development funds to their pre-Gulf crisis level during a meeting in Oman beginning on Tuesday, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Nabulsi said Monday.

Dr. Nabulsi, speaking to the Jordan Times shortly before he left for the two-day meeting, noted that the conference would bring together Arab finance ministers, governors of Arab central banks, investment institutions and agencies for an annual review of the performance of Arab development funds.

These will include the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), the Investment Guarantee Corporation, and the Arab

African Bank. Representatives of funds and agencies which are controlled at a national level by the Gulf states will also attend the meeting.

"Our relations with these institutions have been at a very low level since the 1990 Gulf crisis," Dr. Nabulsi said, in an implicit reference to the strain in Jordan's relations with the Gulf states in the wake of the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The strain in relations led to a cooling of cooperation between the Gulf-controlled Arab funds and Jordan.

But, Dr. Nabulsi noted, that relations between Jordan and some of the institutions had improved since then.

"I should mention that these relations have been reactivated very favourably during 1994 by two institutions — the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Arab Monetary Fund," the CBJ

governor said.

"They have been very much attentive to Jordanian needs — balance of payments as well as project financing — that have been submitted to them," he said.

"We would like very much to see that these relationships are consolidated so that they are back to the levels that prevailed before the Gulf crisis," said Dr. Nabulsi.

In October 1994, the AMF lent Jordan about \$32 million (eight million Arab accounting dinars — the currency unit of the fund) to help the Kingdom's balance of payments.

It was the first such credit from the AMF to Jordan since 1990, but was the ninth by the fund to the Kingdom. It raised to about \$130 million (30 million Arab accounting dinars) the total AMF lending to Jordan.

The AMF is an Arab League body and groups

most Arab countries. Arab central banks, including the CBJ, are the shareholders of the fund with varying shares depending on their contribution to the AMF capital.

Dr. Nabulsi served as an advisor to the AMF for short period in 1989 before being brought back as governor of the CBJ.

As of Dec. 31, 1994, Jordan's dues to the AMF stood at JD 24.5 million, official figures show.

The Kuwait-based AFESD lent Jordan about \$100 million last year. The loans will be used to finance an expansion programme at the Aqaba Thermal Power Station and the linkage of the national power grids of Jordan and Egypt.

According to Ministry of Finance figures, Jordan owes Arab governments JD355.8 million; JD 31.6 million in bilateral loans and \$324.2 million in loans from Arab funds excluding the AMF and the AFESD.

Voter registration begins today for municipal polls

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Voter registration for the July 11 municipal elections begins today amid high expectations, little visible preparations and some grievances by political parties.

This is the first time in the history of the Kingdom that municipal elections for all councils will be held on the same day. The elections will include 259 councils including Amman.

Opposition parties which failed to block a related law in Parliament say they feel bitter that half of the 40 Amman municipal council members and the mayor are appointed by the government.

"We are fully confident that the Jordanians can make up their mind on who is qualified for the post," said Hamzeh Mansour, spokesperson of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party. "But this appointment process (of Amman mayor) is an aggression on democracy. We hope we will have a better parliament in the future that will be capable of taking the democratic decision regarding this law."

Leaders of political parties said they had not made special preparations for the elections, but anticipated close coordination shortly before the elections.

There will certainly be coordination and alliances with any party with which we share some common grounds," said Mr. Mansour, whose party dominated the Zarka municipal council until it was dissolved last summer.

He said the front would support independent candidates and might field or support women candidates if it finds the right people for the job.

Tayseer Zibri, secretary-general of the Jordan Peoples Democratic Party, also said his party would participate in the elections and enter alliances with other parties.

"We cannot field candidates in 259 councils, but we will certainly reach agreements with opposition parties in certain areas," Mr. Zibri said.

Ya'acoub Zayadin, secretary-general of the Jordanian Communist Party, stressed the importance of the elections and said the party would exert all efforts to achieve good results.

Mr. Zayadin also voiced dismay over the structure of the Greater Amman council elections but said the party would nevertheless participate effectively in the July elections.

Assistant Secretary General of Al Ahd Party Rasmi Hamzeh said the party will have a very strong and effective participation in the elections "through its proper channels."

Candidate registration will begin in early July. Any Jordanian above 25 years old, who does not have a criminal record and has paid full taxes, is eligible to run in the elections. The voting age is 19 and above. Voter registration will end on May 15.

The elections will be for seven council members including a mayor, except for the Greater Amman area. The registration authorities will place a special stamp in the family book to prevent any one from voting more than once, according to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Nader Thuheirat.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Thuheirat said the ministry had prepared a special section to answer citizens' queries.

Amnesty urges radical measures to improve human rights in Syria

AMMAN (J.T.) — In Syria, thousands of men and women remain in prison on political grounds at the mercy of the government security forces, who are subjecting them to gross human rights violations without any fear of accountability, Amnesty International said Tuesday.

"Thousands of these political prisoners have been denied the right to fair trial, scores have simply 'disappeared', others continue to be held years after they have fully served their prison sentences and dozens have died in custody, allegedly as a result of torture," Amnesty said in a report, a copy of which was sent to the Jordan Times.

It said: For decades, different branches of the Syrian security forces have special powers granted under a state of emergency legislation to arrest political suspects as they wish and hold them secretly for as long as they wish without any fear of being held to account.

Security forces act separately from each other, reinforcing the secrecy of detention and making it difficult for relatives to trace detainees' whereabouts or find out any information about them.

Relatives frequently end up going from one security branch office to another, searching for news about their detained loved ones, only to have security officers totally deny holding their relatives or having any knowledge of their whereabouts.

Such relatives are left with no option but to wait: — The family of Riad Al Turk, a prisoner of conscience arrested in October 1980 and held without charge or trial, waited 13 years before they were allowed to visit him in July 1993. They have not been allowed to see him again.

— The family of Michael

Sa'adey, a physician reportedly arrested or abducted from a street in Damascus by two people riding in a jeep, have not received any official response about his whereabouts.

In other cases there has been no news at all: Walid Ben Khalis Al Humsi, a university student; Mohammad Ahmad Al-Sha'ar, a doctor; Ihsane Ben Murad, a dentist; and Muhammad Mustafa Salih and Ziyad Mahmoud Al Shayekh "disappeared" following arrest.

The first two were reportedly arrested in 1982 in Damascus, the third in 1991 in Hama, and the last two during the 1980s in Aleppo.

Similarly, the families of hundreds of detainees held in connection with various political organisations, as well as foreign nationals such as Lebanese, Palestinians, and Jordanians, are all still waiting for word of their fate.

In July 1994 Amnesty International submitted a memorandum to the Syrian government describing its concerns with details of more than 1,000 cases of individual victims of human rights violations, from arbitrary arrest to indefinite incommunicado detention, unfair trials, "disappearances" and torture. The memorandum also made recommendations of redress.

In October of the same year, an Amnesty International delegation visited Damascus and held lengthy talks with government ministers and other high-level officials about the organisation's concerns. These authorities said they would study the memorandum and respond.

To date, no response has been received by Amnesty International. Although torture is a crime punishable by imprisonment in Syria, it remains

widespread, indicating the Syrian government's failure to act and to stop its use. And in most cases in which political detainees have died in custody in recent years, torture and ill-treatment have allegedly been the main or a contributory factor.

No deaths in custody are known to have been subjected to any thorough, independent and impartial investigation, including that of Salah Jadid, who died suddenly on August 19, 1993 in Al Mazze prison after almost 23 years in detention without charge or trial.

Executions after unfair trials remain of serious concern. Hundreds of people have been sentenced to death over the past two decades; most were executed. Amnesty International is also concerned about the government's expansion of the scope of this cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment during the past two decades.

The Syrian government has taken some positive steps in the field of human rights in recent years, including the release of several thousands of political prisoners, but these actions have fallen far short of what is required, according to Amnesty International.

To redress these gross human rights violations, Amnesty International calls on the Syrian Government now, as a matter of urgency, to:

— Release immediately all prisoners of conscience.

— Review the cases of all political prisoners serving sentences after unfair trials.

— Clarify the fate of "disappeared" prisoners.

— Set up an independent and impartial body to investigate all allegations of torture, deaths in custody and "disappearance."

— Halt executions and abolish the death penalty.

Iraq and Jordan discuss cooperation

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq and Jordan are discussing ways to boost cooperation in fields of industry and energy, the Iraqi news agency (INA) reported on Monday.

The agency said Jordan's Energy and Minerals Minister Samih Darwazah was in Baghdad to explore opportunities to bolster bilateral ties.

It said he reviewed with Iraq's Minister of Industry and Minerals General Hussein Kamel Hassan "horizons of the fruitful cooperation between Iraq and Jordan in industrial fields and means to boost the utilisation of (energy) wealth in the two countries."

The Jordanian minister stressed "the importance of linking the common interests of the two countries and creating opportunities by bilateral cooperation."

Jordan is to hold a fair of its industrial products in Baghdad by the end of April and a delegation of its businessmen and industrialists is expected in Baghdad soon to follow up the implementation of a trade agreement signed in February.

Representatives from several Canadian companies are in Baghdad exploring business opportunities, INA reported.

The agency identified the leader of the Canadian team as Lambert Tubin, but gave no clues as to who he was or which Canadian companies were represented.

It said he met Monday with Minister of Transportation Ahmad Murada Ahmad and discussed "prospects for cooperation between Iraq and the Canadian companies in the field of transportation."

Investigations continue into Jordan University brawl

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Investigations into last week's student clashes at the University of Jordan continued Monday and a three-man committee appointed by the university administration questioned students in connection with the brawl, which left more than 20 people injured, university officials said.

The clashes, which involved more than 100 people, halted classes and caused damages to university facilities.

According to Mohammad Khreisat, the dean of students at the university, investigations indicated that the cause of the brawl was an argument between a group of students were sitting on the steps of the deanship office on Monday and another student who wanted to pass through the area they were sitting.

(Initial reports said that a student from Salt allegedly harassed a Circassian female on Monday which spurred the fight between Circassian students and students from Salt on Wednesday.)

"The student prevented him from passing and they started arguing about the matter then the two parties agreed to meet off campus to settle the matter," Dr. Khreisat said.

He added that when the student went to meet the

students who were sitting on the stairs he was attacked by four students who severely beat him up.

The students were treated at the university clinic, Dr. Khreisat said, and "he came to my office and complained about the attack."

"I asked the student to write down the names of the students who attacked him, but he said he did not know who they were and he left my office," Dr. Khreisat told the Jordan Times.

Although the dean would not identify the student who was beaten up, students at the university told the Jordan Times that the student was from Salt while the attackers were of Circassian origin.

Dr. Khreisat said that investigations indicated that the fight that occurred on Wednesday was not planned.

He also denied allegations that a bus from one of the clubs in the Kingdom entered the university premises and dropped people to participate in the fight.

According to Dr. Khreisat, the university administration will take stringent measures against any student if investigations prove that he/she was part of or had instigated the fight.

He said the measures would range from issuing warnings to expulsion of students and it might lead to criminal cases, "depend-

ing on the results of the investigations."

In the meantime, informed sources said campus security guards apprehended a student who was attempting to smuggle knives and an axe in an envelope on Monday. The sources said that the student did not belong to either of the parties involved in Wednesday's clashes.

Salt residents said that students have been demonstrating in the town since Wednesday's clashes demanding that officials take action against those who beat up Salt students in the brawl.

According to residents, officials in Salt met Monday to set a final draft concerning the demands to be presented in a statement "so that their honour will be restored."

According to one of the participants in the meeting, the list includes a call for the government to speed up the investigation process.

It also calls for the resignation of some government officials "if investigations prove that some top officials have participated in one way or another in the fight."

Salt residents told the Jordan Times that another demand an end to tight security measures — including a police cordon of the town — in place since Wednesday's clash.